

STARS AND STRIPES®

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2004

Longtime aid worker taken hostage in Iraq

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Sherpas deliver every time

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Right: Boxy and utilitarian, C-23 Sherpas at Balad air base wait to carry cargo and people to airstrips around Iraq. The mid-sized aircraft flies low and fast to stay out of trouble and is helping to keep military bases across Iraq stocked with critical supplies.

Above: Sgt. Eric Muse, flight engineer with Company H of the 171st Aviation Regiment, looks out the rear door before the Sherpa takes off. Servicemembers working on the Sherpas say the aircraft is ideal for Iraq, as very few have been attacked and none has been hit. The speed and low flights mean that by the time the enemy sees the plane, it's gone.



PHOTOS BY JULIANA GITTLER
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

School threat: A high school student whose tip about a planned school massacre landed his friend in jail was arrested Monday and charged with being a conspirator in the plot.

Joseph T. Nee, 18, a senior at Marshfield High School in Plymouth, Mass., whose father heads the main Boston police union, pleaded innocent to conspiracy to commit mass murder and promotion of anarchy. He was ordered held without bail pending a hearing Thursday.

Nee's tip to police had led to the Sept. 17 arrest of his friend, 16-year-old Tobin Kerns.

Acting on information from Nee and two other unnamed witnesses, police said they uncovered evidence of a plan to carry out an attack that would coincide with the sixth anniversary of the Columbine High School shootings and that students, teachers, police officers and firefighters were identified as targets.

Los Alamos lab: Two former Los Alamos National Laboratory employees accused of being part of a purchasing scandal that rocked the nuclear lab two years ago have pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy and mail fraud.

Peter Bussolini, 66, and Scott Alexander, 42, each entered guilty pleas in federal court Monday. U.S. District Judge James Parker said he would not formally accept the deal until he receives a pre-sentencing report.

The two were fired in December 2002 after being accused of making hundreds of thousands of dollars in questionable purchases using a lab account.

Laci Peterson case: Defense attorneys for Scott Peterson have begun their counter-attack, starting with a concrete expert whose testimony poked holes in a prosecution theory that Peterson used concrete anchors to weigh down the body of his pregnant wife.

Prosecutors claim Peterson made five cement anchors, one of which was found in the boat they allege he used to dispose of his wife's body in San Francisco Bay. The others have not been found.

Peterson told police he made only one anchor and used the rest of the 90-pound bag of cement to repair his driveway. A prosecution witness testified earlier that concrete samples taken by police from Peterson's driveway were not from the same mix as the anchor.

But in testimony Monday, defense witness Steven Gabler, a concrete expert, said they were indeed a match with the anchor.

World

School seizure: The head of a parliamentary commission in Moscow is investigating last month's school hostage crisis on Tuesday questioned officials' contention that the raiders were using narcotics, saying he believes they were deranged by an unknown drug.

The prosecutor-general's office this week said autopsies of the terrorists who seized hundreds of hostages Sept. 1 at a school in the town of Beslan showed that several had higher-than-lethal doses of narcotics.

Narcotic drugs induce stupors and slow reactions, and commission head Alexander Torkhin said he was uncomfortable with the prosecutor's office's contention.

Head scarves controversy: Sikhs must re-



Mitsubishi safety: Employees at Mitsubishi Motors Corp. headquarters in Tokyo observe a moment of silence Tuesday on the anniversary of a 2002 accident in which a driver died after the brakes in his Mitsubishi truck failed due to a defect in the clutch system. The firm has been struggling to recover from a series of massive recalls for dozens of flaws that led to two fatal accidents and triggered concerns about the company's safety record. Mitsubishi pledged Tuesday to make safety its top priority.

spect France's new law banning conspicuous religious signs from public schools, the education minister said Tuesday, as three Sikhs refusing to take off their turbans brought their case to court.

The Sikhs' case is the first known court action over the law since it took effect in September.

Education Minister Francois Fillon said there remain about 70 cases of students defying the law — mainly involving girls refusing to remove their Islamic head scarves — since the measure took effect at the start of the school year on Sept. 2.

Iran's nuclear program: The foreign ministers of Britain and Germany on Tuesday urged Iran to indefinitely suspend its nuclear program and avoid a showdown next month with the U.N. nuclear agency.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and his German counterpart Joschka Fischer said the international community lacked confidence in Iran, which last year agreed to suspend uranium enrichment but has since resumed testing, assembling and making centrifuges used in the process.

Albania bus wreck: A road accident that killed 15 Kosovo students returning from neighboring Albania has not stopped other students from making a similar excursion, Albanian media reported Monday.

Another group of 100 Kosovo students from Uroševac, 25 miles south of Pristina came to Albania on Sunday, the Shkulli newspaper said.

"We are very sorry for our colleagues, but — we want to go ahead," the newspaper quoted one student as saying.

Spain terror arrests: Police broke up a radical Muslim cell that had been plotting to blow up the National Court, a hub of Spain's investigations of Islamic terrorism, officials said Tuesday.

Seven suspects were arrested on Monday in Madrid and southern Spain, and one more Tuesday in the northern city of Pamplona. Most are Algerian, and some had contacts with militants elsewhere in Europe, the United States and Australia.

North Korea nuclear talks: North Korea said it still wants to talk the dispute over its

nuclear weapons programs through six-nation talks, after China urged it to respond to the "common wish" of the international community, a Chinese official said Tuesday.

Chinese leaders are lobbying North Korea's No. 2 leader, Kim Jong Nam, during a visit to Beijing to bring his country back to talks on demands that his country give up its nuclear ambitions.

Business

Coca-Cola anti-trust case: The European Union reached a settlement Tuesday of its long-running antitrust case against The Coca-Cola Co. under which the world's biggest soft-drink company agreed to change sales practices that helped it win roughly half the market in Europe.

The changes include an end to exclusivity arrangements with stores or restaurants and allowing rival drinks into Coke-branded coolers, Monti said. The aim is to let consumers to choose what to buy "on the basis of price and personal preferences, rather than pick up a Coca-Cola product because it's the only one on offer."

The deal allows Atlanta-based Coke to avoid a fine and potentially years of continued legal wrangling.

War on terrorism

Guantanamo review tribunals: A U.S. military review panel on Monday issued recommendations on seven detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, ordering them to remain in custody as so-called enemy combatants, an official said.

There have been 183 review hearings so far and 96 decisions have been announced, said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Darby Borgquist, a spokesman for the Combatant Status Review Tribunals. The military did not give an explanation on the seven decisions announced Monday.

The review panels have so far released one prisoner after deciding he was improperly held for more than two years as an "enemy combatant," a classification giving fewer legal protections than that of a prisoner of war.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Clarification

A story in Friday's editions about a soldier killed in Iraq contained incomplete information. The soldier, Spc. Morgan Jacobs, also was survived by his natural father, Michael Cummings.

Comics and advice —
every day in Stripes

Veteran aid worker in Iraq abducted

CARE International's local director kidnapped despite history of helping Iraqis

BY TINI TRAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents abducted the local director of CARE International from her car in Baghdad on Tuesday, targeting a charity worker who has championed ordinary Iraqis for decades.

In new violence, mortar attacks killed an American contractor and at least four Iraqi National Guard members and wounded 80 Iraqis, the U.S. military said.

Hassan

Margaret Hassan was kidnapped while being driven to work about 7:30 a.m. in a western neighborhood of the capital, a CARE employee who spoke on the condition of anonymity said. The employee said CARE did not employ armed guards.

Hours later, Al-Jazeera television aired a brief video of Hassan being released. She sat on a couch in a room, speaking — though there was no audio — and no gunmen were visible in the footage.

Al-Jazeera said an "armed Iraqi group" claimed responsibility for the kidnapping but did not say whether any demands were made.

The abduction highlighted that no one is immune from the wave of kidnappings in the Iraqi capital. Hassan has lived in Iraq for 30 years, helping supply medicines and other humanitarian aid and speaking out about Iraqis' suffering under international sanctions during the 1990s.

Violence in Iraq has pushed many humanitarian groups to leave the country or withdraw foreign workers — particularly after deadly bombings against the United Nations and international Red Cross last year.

Kidnappings have become a prime strategy for insurgents aiming to drive out U.S. allies in Iraq and spread chaos. Two Italian aid workers were snatched from their Baghdad office last month and later released. More than 150 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq, and at least 30 captives have been killed.

South of Baghdad, Iraqi security forces and U.S. Marines carried out raids this week that resulted in the arrest of nearly 130 suspected insurgents, the U.S. military said Tuesday. The sweep included areas where British media said British forces might be redeployed at the request of the U.S. command to free up American forces to move against insurgent strongholds.

The raids took place Sunday

"As of now we are unaware of the motives."

*As far as we know,
Margaret is unharmed."*

CARE International, United Kingdom

and Monday in and around the cities of Iskandariyah, Yussufiyah and Latifiyah. Four of those detained Monday were suspected in an attack on the joint forces earlier the same day, the military said.

U.S. officials have admitted in the past that faulty intelligence had led to the arrest of thousands of Iraqis who had no ties to the insurgency. However, officials claim their intelligence is better now that Iraqi security forces are playing important roles in such operations.

North of the capital, a barrage of six mortars hit the headquarters of the Iraqi National Guard early Tuesday just as troops were lining up in formation, said international officials and National Guard officers on the condition of anonymity.

Four guardsmen were killed and 80 wounded, the U.S. military said, citing the Iraqi Defense Ministry. Iraqi officers on the scene said five guardsmen had been killed and more than 100 injured, some severely.

The Iraqi National Guard has been a frequent target of insurgents trying to undermine U.S.-led security efforts ahead of January national elections.

Meanwhile, a separate mortar and rocket attack on a U.S. military base in central Baghdad on Tuesday killed an American working for KBR, a subsidiary of the Houston-based Halliburton's engineering and construction subsidiary, said Megan Mason, spokeswoman for the company in Baghdad.

A U.S. soldier was also wounded in the 5 a.m. attack, the military said. Halliburton and its subcontractors have lost 54 personnel in Kuwait and Iraq, Mason said.

In northern Iraq, saboteurs blasted an oil pipeline Monday night, reducing the flow to an export terminal by 8 percent, police and an oil official said. Firefighters battled a blaze in the pipeline, 8 miles outside the town of Beiji, until Tuesday morning.

The pipeline usually pumps 350,000 to 400,000 barrels a day to Ceyhan, the terminal on southern Turkey's Mediterranean coast. The blast wrecked that section of the pipeline, which would have to be replaced, an official with the Northern Oil Company said.

He added that the flow to the export terminal in Turkey would fall by 8 percent. "Exports have not been halted completely be-

cause another line is operational," the official said.

Iraq's oil industry has been hit by repeated insurgent attacks, hampering attempts to rebuild a sector that provides desperately needed money for Iraq's reconstruction efforts.

There was no immediate word on who abducted Hassan.

"As of now we are unaware of the motives," CARE International, United Kingdom said in a statement released in London and read to The Associated Press in Baghdad. "As far as we know, Margaret is unharmed."

CARE International has been active in Iraq since 1991 following the Gulf War, with programs focusing on rebuilding and maintaining water and sanitation systems, hospitals and clinics, according to the group's Web site.

Hassan's abduction is a potential new political snarl for Britain, on the heels of the kidnapping

and beheading of 62-year-old British engineer Ken Bigley. It comes as Britons are debating the merits of the U.S. request to redeploy some British troops — a move that could put them in greater danger.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday that British troops would only be redeployed to the more volatile, U.S.-controlled sector of Iraq if it was militarily justified.

"No decision will be taken to redeploy British troops unless it is clear militarily that that should and can happen," he added.

Blair rejected accusations that any redeployment would be a political gesture to help President Bush's bid of Nov. 2 presidential elections in the United States.

"The only elections that matter in this regard are the Iraqi elections that happen next January."

Moving a contingent of British troops further north would be aimed at freeing up American forces to launch a new effort against insurgents controlling a number of regions in the Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad — the city of Fallujah in particular — before the January vote.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, Oct. 18, at least 1,102 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. Of those, 846 died as a result of hostile action and 256 died of nonhostile causes, according to the Defense Department. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 964 U.S. military members have died — 737 as a result of hostile action and 227 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Marine Capt. William I. Salazar, 26, Las Vegas; killed Friday in hostile action in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expedi-

tionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Army Capt. Christopher B. Johnson, 29, Excelsior Springs, Mo.; killed in a helicopter crash near the town of Ramadi, Iraq, Saturday, Oct. 16, 2003, while serving with the 25th Infantry Division, Wheeler Army Air Field, Hawaii.

■ Army Sgt. Michael G. Owen, 31, Phoenix, and Army Spc. Jonathan J. Santos, 22, Bellingham, Wash.; killed Friday when an explosive detonated near their vehicle; assigned to the Army's 9th Psychological Operations Battalion, 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.

Three soldiers were killed Thursday in Ramadi, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near their convoy:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Omer T. Hawkins II, 31, Cherry Fork, Ohio; assigned to the 4th Engineer Battalion, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Army Pfc. Mark A. Barbert, 22, Shelby Township, Mich.; assigned to the 4th Engineer Battalion, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Army Spc. Bradley S. Beard, 22, Chapel Hill, N.C.; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Red Cloud, Korea.

Italy won't redeploy

ROME — The Italian defense minister on Tuesday ruled out that Italian troops in Iraq, currently based in the southern part of the country, will redeploy near Baghdad, as some British troops have been asked to, an Italian news agency said.

The comments by Antonio Martino were made hours after the British government said it is strongly considering a U.S. request to redeploy some British troops closer to Baghdad so the insurgency in central Iraq can be dealt with ahead of Iraqi elections.

The United States has asked Britain to move a small number of troops to free up American forces for anti-insurgency operations.

The British troops are based in southern Iraq.

Italy, however, has so far received no similar request by Washington, the Italian Defense Ministry said Tuesday.

Italy has about 3,000 troops — the U.S.-led coalition's third largest force — based in the southern city of Nasiriyah. The south is relatively peaceful, compared to a volatile and more violent rest of the country.

Election workers rescued

KABUL, Afghanistan — NATO helicopters on Tuesday rescued a team of Afghan election workers from snowbound mountains in the country's remotest corner, and retrieved the last four ballot boxes containing votes from its landslide presidential poll, the alliance said.

The four election workers and two police officers had been stuck in freezing conditions in northeastern Badkhash province since Oct. 12.

On that day, a U.N. helicopter sent to collect them crashed in the towering Pamir range, in an illustration of the difficulties facing election organizers.

Donkeys have been used to bring ballots from remote valleys in other parts of Badkhash.

The victims were suffering from hypothermia, dehydration and breathing difficulties, but were released from a German field hospital in the northern city of Kunduz after a checkup.

Ballots from the four boxes — the last to be retrieved from the Oct. 9 presidential election — were delivered to the counting center in Kunduz.

No pleas in drowning

FORT HOOD, Texas — Two soldiers accused in the drowning of an Iraqi civilian declined to enter pleas at their arraignment in military court Tuesday.

1st Lt. Jack Saville and Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins of the 4th Infantry Division face courts-martial on charges of involuntary manslaughter, assault, making false official statements and obstruction of justice.

Perkins' trial date was set for Oct. 26 and Saville's will start in January. Both men on Tuesday defended their pleas and did not say whether they want to be tried by a judge or a military jury.

From The Associated Press

Sherpas prove 'the aircraft that can' in Iraq

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

FBALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — hours before takeoff, the operations center of the 171st Aviation Regiment, owner of the C-23 Sherpa, gets a call that absentee ballots must absolutely, positively get to an airfield southwest of Mosul.

Can it do it? Of course.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Jackson, operations officer, adds an extra stop on a planned flight to Mosul.

Throughout the evening, he'll continue to change the cargo list: adding a needed box of blood for one stop and a crew of F-16 mechanics to another. Each time the phone rings, the mission can change.

"The Sherpa is the aircraft that can," said Lt. Col. Steven Campfield, commander of the 6th Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, which includes the Sherpa company. "I would say the Sherpa has been the workhorse in this theater."

It moves critical supplies such as blood, repair parts and ammunition to anywhere with an airstrip.

For safety, pilots fly low and fast, racing along at 200 miles per hour, 100 feet above ground or occasionally lower.

"We dodge power lines," said pilot Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dave Smith. "We're down there with the helicopters for the most part."

Danger in a tin can

Back in the States, Sherpas have the same mission, moving small groups of people and medium-size cargo loads.

"All we really did was lift up, change the scenery and add the threat," said Maj. John D. Boyer, company commander.

The threats, surface-to-air missiles, small-arms and indirect fire, force pilots to fly in a safety zone barely off the ground, a place many pilots have flown before.

"A lot of [flying] tactics are determined from reaching back in our brains to our helicopter days. Although you're moving a lot faster than a helicopter, it's not very different," Boyer said.

At a low altitude, pilots use vision, not instruments, to navigate. Pilots and crew stand constant watch for wires, towers, hapless birds and anything suspicious on the ground.

"When we first got here, everything was out of the ordinary," said Sgt. Eric Muse, flight engineer. "That was kind of unnerving."

Very few Sherpas have been attacked and none have been hit. The speed and low flights mean that by the time the enemy sees the plane, it's gone.

"You always worry about it, but you get used to it," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ken Long.

It's often the more banal obstacles that are a concern.

"When you're going 200 miles an hour, a 3-pound bird can have



From the cockpit of the C-23 Sherpa, the view over Iraq is crisp and clear — probably because it's 100 feet or less to the ground. The pilots, including Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ken Long, pictured, keep the Sherpa low and fast to reduce exposure to attacks. The aircraft moves critical supplies such as blood, repair parts and ammunition to anywhere with an airstrip.

PHOTOS BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes



AP/Stars and Stripes



C-23 Sherpa

In Iraq, the small cargo hauler specializes in getting urgently needed supplies quickly to bases with airstrips.
Dimensions: 58 feet long, 74-foot wingspan, 16 feet tall
Speed: 218 mph
Range: 770 miles when carrying 5,000 pounds
Maximum cargo weight: 7,000 pounds
Crew: Three to four crewmembers
 Source: U.S. Army



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Dave Smith looks over the Sherpa's cargo area. "We're down there with the helicopters," Smith said of the low-flying craft.

a huge impact," Smith said. "All of us have hit birds," Jackson added. "I've seen some birds do some really bad things. Large flocks of small birds, they look just like a big cloud in front of you."

It's low enough to see rocks and shrubs, and smiles — or not — on people's faces.

"You can see their expressions, it's great," Muse said.

Pilots say flying low isn't necessarily difficult but requires intense concentration and can tire

out a crew quickly.

"It's demanding at low altitude," Smith said. "It's physically demanding."

And unlike during higher-elevation flights, crews can never take a breather and rely on autopilot.

On hot days, the cockpit can reach 130 degrees and the heat causes greater turbulence.

Out of the sky

Sherpas belong to the Army National Guard. They've been in use in the States for more than a decade and are now proving their mettle.

The aircraft came to the Army unexpectedly, said Dale Christenberry, company maintenance officer.

In the 1980s, Congress bought 12 from a company in Northern

Ireland. The Army tried using them, then handed them to the National Guard. Congress bought a total of 44 for the Guard after they proved effective in moving people and cargo in the United States.

They served a limited role in the Persian Gulf War, moving cargo in the rear. For Operation Iraqi Freedom, they were brought in to Kuwait to take some burden off other means of transportation, Christenberry said.

To cut flying time and distance, the unit moved this year to Balad, a more-central city in the country. From the hub there, pilots circle out to local airstrips, from Mosul in the north to Kuwait in the south.

The C-23 can move quickly around the theater and provide similar supply capabilities as the CH-47 Chinook.

"They needed something in the theater that could do what the Chinook does but with less down time for maintenance," Christenberry said. "There's nothing in the middle but the C-23."

Sherpas move about a half million tons of cargo a month and have ferried 9,000 people in six months, Campbell said.

"We can move 200 pounds of blood to Mosul in two hours," he said.

In July, with a day's notice, the company raced blood and ammunition to Fallujah to replenish Marines fighting there.

Not built for looks

Most people are surprised when they see the boxy prop.

"That's one thing we're actually kidded about," Christenberry said. "It looks like an antique."

The planes, all about 20 years old, are made of aluminum boxes welded together. Inside, the ceiling is 6 feet high. They're made cheap and are perfect for cargo.

"It's a very durable aircraft. It's not built for looks," Christenberry said.

For passengers, the ride can be uncomfortable, particularly in summer when turbulent air builds at low levels, giving it more of a roller coaster ride than a cruising plane.

"It's a tickle-down effect," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jerry Baker. "Once one person goes, several go."

The ride might be exhilarating or dreadful, depending on your constitution, but the aircraft is certainly memorable. So, too, is its function.

And it's likely to play a role in the Army's future inner-theater, midsize transportation plan.

"What we're doing here is proof of concept," said Boyer. "This is definitely going to change Army aviation indefinitely."

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"I would say the Sherpa has been the workhorse in this theater."

Lt. Col. Steven Campfield

Bush: Iraq will not mirror post-WWII Europe

Longtime presence of troops in nation not leader's vision

BY TOM RAUM

The Associated Press

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE — President Bush says he doesn't envision a long-term presence of U.S. troops in Iraq similar to post-World War II deployments in Europe and South Korea that continue today.

"I think the Iraqi people want us to leave once we've helped them get on the path of stability and democracy and once we have trained their troops to do their own hard work," Bush said Monday in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press.

Still, Bush said, "It's very difficult for me to predict what forces will exist, although I will tell you that Iraq's leadership has made it quite clear that they can manage their own affairs at the appropriate time."

If free and open Iraq elections lead to the seating of a fundamentalist Islamic government, "I will be disappointed. But democracy is democracy," Bush said. "If that's what the people choose, that's what the people choose."

Bush steered nearly all questions dealing with Iraq to criticism of rival Sen. John Kerry just two weeks before a U.S. election that polls show to be close.

As to reports that Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the former top general of U.S. forces in



AP

President Bush answers a question Monday aboard Air Force One during an interview with The Associated Press.

Iraq, had warned nearly a year ago of supply problems in Iraq, Bush said. "There's a chain of command. When the commanders on the ground say they need more, we respond as quickly as possible," Bush said.

"He was asking about much-needed supplies. The Congress had an opportunity to vote on funding to get those supplies in the pipeline. And my opinion voted against that funding," Bush said.

"What he needs to do is address why he

voted against the \$87 billion [war spending request]," Bush said.

Kerry, D-Mass., voted against the \$87 billion request in October 2003, and Congress gave its final approval to the measure in November. A memo written by Sanchez asking for more equipment, according to a story in Monday's Washington Post, came a month later.

Kerry used the Sanchez incident to deliver fresh criticism of the president's Iraq policy.

In his first interview since three debates with Kerry, Bush sat in his cabin on Air Force One, relaxing in shirt sleeves in a leather chair on a flight from Washington to New Jersey. Although Democrats have carried the state in every presidential election since 1988, Bush said, "We have a shot" this year.

Bush said he would not pass judgment on a unit of Army reservists who refused a mission on grounds that it would be too dangerous. The Army announced last week it was investigating up to 19 members of a platoon from a company based in South Carolina after they refused a supply mission.

"That's up to the military. The military will take the appropriate action on both their concerns as well as their actions," Bush said.

Asked whether the defiance reflected larger concerns among U.S. troops in Iraq, Bush said, "I need to know more about that. I understand this is a very rare incident."

Bush served in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War but did not go overseas.

Asked whether he thought another over-time election was possible, like the 2000 contest that led to a recount of Florida ballots and a U.S. Supreme Court decision in Bush's favor, the president said: "Having gone through one election that didn't end until mid-December, I certainly hope we don't have to go through another."

"And so, therefore we will do everything we can to maximize our vote," he added with a smile.

On other topics, Bush:

■ said Iran and North Korea, both with nuclear ambitions, are dangerous states, but not necessarily more so than when he was elected. He said the strategy he has followed "makes them less likely to take action that would make the world more dangerous."

■ insisted he would not bring back the military draft, even if there were a crisis with North Korea or Iran. "I believe we've got the assets and manpower necessary to be able to deal with another threat should one arise," the president said.

■ criticized Kerry, as Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne, had done, for mentioning during last week's debate that one of Cheney's daughters is a lesbian. "I thought it was over the line," Bush said.

■ said government officials remained concerned about the possibility of a terrorist attack before the Nov. 2 election. "We have no specific threat information. Otherwise we would have let everybody know. On the other hand we are on alert," he said, mentioning the train bombing in Madrid before Spain's elections.

Annan says more nations should help rebuild Iraq

The Associated Press

LONDON — As U.S. and Iraqi forces step up their campaign to curb insurgents in Iraq, they should strive to avoid alienating the wider public as the country struggles to improve security ahead of January's elections, United Nations chief Kofi Annan said Tuesday.

He also said governments around the world, including those that opposed the war in Iraq, should do more to help stabilize and rebuild the country.

American forces are leading a push against Sunni Muslim extremists west of Baghdad in cities like Ramadi and Fallujah, the militant bastion where terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is believed to be operating.

"On the question of Fallujah, obviously this is a judgment for the Iraqi government and the multinational force to make, but I think in these kinds of situations you have two wars going on," Annan said. "You have the war for minds and hearts of the people, as well as efforts to try and bring down the violence, and the two have to go together."

The comment by Annan came during a news conference with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw after the two discussed a range of issues, including the humanitarian crisis created by fighting in western Sudan. He met later with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Annan, who has called the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq "illegal," said the war's critics and everyone else should focus on rebuilding the country.



Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Riaz Khokhar, left, welcomes U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca on Tuesday at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad, Pakistan. U.S. ambassador to Pakistan Nancy Powell is at center. In talks with President Gen. Pervez Musharraf and other officials, Rocca encouraged Pakistan to continue peace negotiations with India. Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

AP

U.S. praises Pakistan's anti-terror role

BY SADAQAT JAN

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A senior U.S. official conveyed Washington's appreciation on Tuesday for Pakistan's role in the fight against terrorism and this month's presidential election in Afghanistan, a Cabinet minister said.

In talks with President Gen. Pervez Musharraf and other officials, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca also encouraged Pakistan to continue peace negotiations with India, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

Rocca thanked Islamabad for capturing hundreds of terror suspects after the Sept.

11, 2001, attacks in the United States, he said.

"Rocca, during this meeting with President Musharraf, conveyed her government's appreciation for Pakistan's role in the fight against terrorism," he said.

Ahmed said Rocca also praised Pakistan for tightening security near the Afghan border before the Oct. 9 presidential election in Afghanistan, so that insurgents could not sneak across the frontier to disrupt the vote.

Rocca also met with Riaz Khokhar, the top bureaucrat in Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, to discuss the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Pakistan's ongoing peace talks with archival India.

Pakistan and India have a history of bitter relations, but in recent months they have taken steps to resolve all issues — including the disputed region of Kashmir — through peace talks.

Pakistan is a key ally of the United States in its war on terror. Its security forces have arrested more than 600 al-Qaida suspects, including senior figures in the terror network. Many have been handed over to U.S. authorities.

Musharraf allied Pakistan with the U.S.-led campaign that ousted the Taliban from power in neighboring Afghanistan in late 2001.

Pakistan has deployed about 70,000 troops to Pakistan's tribal regions bordering Afghanistan to hunt al-Qaida fighters and remnants of the Taliban.

Disabled vets get red tape, not tickle tape

Bureaucracy provides lots of indignities but little help planning life with no livelihood

BY BRIAN ROSS, DAVID SCOTT
AND MADDY SAUER

ABC News/Primetime Live

Following inquiries by ABC News, the Pentagon has dropped plans to force a severely wounded U.S. soldier to repay his enlistment bonus after injuries forced him out of the service.

Army Spc. Tyson Johnson III of Mobile, Ala., lost a kidney in a mortar attack last year in Iraq, was still recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., when he received notice from the Pentagon's collection agency that he owed more than \$2,700 because he could not fulfill his 36-month tour of duty.

Johnson said the Pentagon listed the bonus on his credit report as an unpaid government loan, making it impossible for him to rent an apartment or obtain credit cards.

"Oh man, I felt betrayed," Johnson said. "I felt like, oh, my heart dropped."

Pentagon officials said they were unaware of the case until it was brought to their attention by ABC News. "Some faceless bureaucrat" was responsible for Johnson's predicament, said Gen. Franklin "Buster" Hagenbeck, a three-star general and the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel.

"It's absolutely unacceptable. It's intolerable," said Hagenbeck. "I mean, I'm incredulous when I hear those kinds of things. I just can't believe that we allow this to happen. And we're not going to let it happen."

The Department of Defense and the Army intervened to have the collection action against Johnson stopped, Hagenbeck said.

"I was told today he's not going to have a nickel taken from him," he said. "And I will tell you that we'll keep a microscope on this one to see the outcome."

'Not so good'

Hagenbeck also pledged to look into the cases of the other soldiers ABC News brought to the military's attention, including men who lost limbs and their former livelihoods after serving in Iraq.

"When you're in the military, they take good care of you," said the 23-year-old Johnson in Iraq. Inspired by his father's naval background to join the military after high school, Tyson planned a career in the military and the promotion was just the first step. But only a week after the ceremony to take place, a mortar round exploded outside his tent brought him quickly back to Earth.

"It was like warm water running down my arms," he said. "But it was warm blood."

In addition to the lost kidney, shrapnel damaged Johnson's lung and heart and entered the back of his head. Field medical reporters said he was not expected to live more than 72 hours.

With the help of Army surgeons, he survived. As he recuperated, however, Johnson faced perhaps an even greater obstacle than physical pain or injuries — military bureaucracy.

Part of the warrior ethos, the soldier's creed of the U.S. Army, is to "never leave a fallen comrade."

"And it doesn't just pertain to the battlefield," Hagenbeck said. "It means, when we get them home, they're a part of the Army family forever."

But Johnson now lives in his car. It is where he spends most of his days, all of his nights, in constant pain from his injuries and unwilling to burden his family.

Better off dead?

Stories like Tyson Johnson's are not unique.

Many of the severely wounded soldiers returning from Iraq face the prospect of poverty and what they describe as official indifference and incompetence.

"Guys I've met, talking to people, they'd be better off financially for their families if they had died as opposed to coming back maimed," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Kelly, who served as a civil affairs specialist for the Army while in Iraq.

On July 14, 2003, the Abilene, Texas, native had been on his way to a meeting about rebuilding schools in Iraq when his unarmored Humvee was blown up. A piece of shrapnel the size of a TV remote took his right leg off, below the knee, almost completely, Kelly said.

Kelly attests to receiving excellent medical care at Ward 57, the amputee section of Walter Reed, but said he quickly realized that the military had no real plan for the injured soldiers. Many had to borrow money or depend on charities just to have relatives visit at Walter Reed, Kelly said.

"It's not what I expected to see when I got here," he said. "These guys having to, you know, basically panhandle for money to afford things."

No answer

Perhaps as a sign of the grim outlook facing many of these wounded soldiers, Staff Sgt. Peter Damon, a National Guardsman from Brockton, Mass., said he is grateful for being a double amputee.

"Well, in a way, I'm kind of lucky losing both arms because I've been told I'll probably get 100 percent disability," he said.

Damon, a mechanic and electrician, lost both arms in an explosion as he was repairing a helicopter in Iraq. He initially woke up in the hospital worried and anxious to learn that both forms of livelihood were taken away from him.

"Now what am I doing to do?" Damon said, faced with the prospect of supporting



Tyson Johnson III lost a kidney when a mortar round exploded outside his tent in Iraq last year. An attempt by the Pentagon to recover his service bonus destroyed his credit rating and left him unable to rent an apartment, so he lives in his car.

his wife, Jennifer, and two children. "I can't do either, none of those, with no hands."

The military does not provide a lump sum payment for such catastrophic injuries. And Damon still has not heard from the military about what they plan to give in terms of monthly disability payments.

The last time Damon asked about the payments, he was told by the military that his paperwork had been lost.

"And then when I went to go back to inquire about it again, just to ask a question, I just wanted to see if they had found my paperwork, I was told I had to make an appointment and to come back five days later," he said.

A failing system?

Staff Sgt. Larry Gill, a guardsman from Semmes, Ala., wonders whether his 20 years of military service have been adequately rewarded.

Last October, Gill injured his left leg during a protest outside a mosque in Baghdad. A protester threw a hand grenade that left Gill, a former policeman, with his left intact but useless. He received a Purple Heart, but no program, plan or proposal of how to make a living in civilian life.

"It's not fair, and I'm not complaining," Gill said. "I'm not whining about it. You know, I just, I just don't think people really understand what we're being faced with."

Gill expects he will have to sell his home, the dream house he and his wife, Leah, designed and built, where they raised their children.

"I've never questioned my orders," he said. "I've slept with rats and stood in the rain and wondered why I was standing in the rain, and, you know, for my children to have to do without based on a lack of income from me, it's frustrating."

Leah Gill agreed.

"I just don't feel we should have to uproot because of an injury that he received while he was serving the country," she said. "It shouldn't come down to that."

Gill and the others in Ward 57 have had their pictures taken frequently with visiting politicians.

"Where are the politicians? Where are the generals?" he asked. "Where are the people that are supposed to take care of me?"

Help and care will be forthcoming, Hagenbeck promised.

"There in fact was a plan," he said. "But again, it was not integrated in a seamless fashion that it needed to be. And that was not even really, it's to be honest with you, recognized properly until sometime about a year ago. And these soldiers actually brought it to our attention about the transition problems."

Loyal soldiers

To help these neglected soldiers, Hagenbeck said, the military created an advocacy program in April called Disabled Soldier Support System, or DSS. The network is set up to fight for a soldier's benefits and entitlements, ease transition to civilian life, and deal with any other problems facing a disabled soldier, according to Hagenbeck.

But still, Johnson and others like Johnson who fall through the cracks.

His mother, Willie Jean Johnson, worries her son may hurt himself.

"He's not going to say anything bad about the Army," she said. "I have never heard him say anything bad about it. But you can see the hurt in his eyes. You can see the hurt from his heart in his eyes."

Johnson said he usually keeps to himself, preferring to protect his son from seeing him in his current state. "I'd rather be to myself than to flare at somebody else and, you know, and hurt someone that I know I really love," he said.

One year after he was nearly killed in combat, the Pentagon has yet to send Johnson his Purple Heart medal.

The Pentagon collection notices, however, arrive without fail.

As to Kelly's discovery that he and his wounded comrades had to beg and borrow to pay for their loved ones to visit while they recuperate, Hagenbeck said a new policy just went into effect to alleviate part of the problem.

"There was no system in place to support them in their needs. And I'll be honest with you, until it came to our attention, to people that were paying attention, and then those that wanted to help, that obstacle was there," Hagenbeck said.

Incredibly, these soldiers remain dedicated to the military despite all they have endured.

"Even though the way I'm being treated, you know, as a vet, I'd still go back in," Johnson said. "I would."

"I love being a soldier," Kelly said. "I don't regret what happened. If I had to go back to Iraq knowing that there was that chance of losing my leg, I'd do it. Because that's what the nation asked me to do."

Jessica Wang contributed to this report.

Where to get help

Stars and Stripes

The Disabled Soldier Support System, or DSS, is a \$1 million project to link badly disabled soldiers with the many government and private programs already in the hospital worried and anxious to learn that both forms of livelihood were taken away from him.

DSS was introduced April 30 as a joint project between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Service members, veterans, spouses, parents and friends can call 800-833-6622

or go to www.armyDSS.org to get information.

The military defines "badly disabled" as having a 30 percent or more disability rating, which includes injuries such as amputations, blindness or disfigurement. Col. Jacqueline Cumbo, chief of the DSS Task Force, told Stripes in April.

But the program is designed to accommodate any badly injured servicemember, whether the wounds are combat-related or not, and no matter how long ago the person was hurt, Cumbo said.

Wayne Newton's USO Variety Tour at LSA Anaconda, Iraq



PHOTOS BY JULIANA GITTNER/Stars and Stripes

Left: Superstar Wayne Newton performs for troops at LSA Anaconda, Iraq, on Monday during Newton's USO Variety Tour. The tour included country singer Neal McCoy and a host of other celebrities. Above: Spc. Dale Hollifield with the 185th Aviation Regiment at shares a joke with McCoy during the show. LSA Anaconda is north of Baghdad.

U.S. military to help shuttle African troops to Sudan

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Two C-130 Hercules transport planes from Ramstein Air Base will help shuttle African peacekeeping troops to Sudan's troubled Darfur region this month, officials from the U.S. Air Forces in Europe said Tuesday.

The 86th Airlift Wing planes will help carry some 3,500 African Union troops to the region, where more than 1.6 million people have been displaced during a 20-month civil war.

The White House said Monday that President Bush directed Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to make the planes available for two weeks to support part of the African Union mission in Sudan, according to a White House statement.

The United States is working with other nations, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, along with the European Union, to expand the peacekeeping mission, the statement said. The additional troops are meant to quell violence to allow for the free flow of humanitarian aid to the region. Up to 70,000 people have died since March due to their squalid living conditions since being displaced from their villages, the United Nations said.

The Ramstein aircraft will help ferry troops from neighboring African nations to the Sudan, USAF spokesman Maj. Patrick Ryder said Tuesday.

The base hosts two C-130 squadrons, used primarily for carrying troops and supplies in the U.S. European Command area of operations.

The first 1,000 African peacekeeping troops are expected to come from Rwanda and Nigeria, the White House statement said.

The African Union mission's immediate goal is to "intensify monitoring of the cease-fire and help create conditions to increase the free flow of humanitarian assistance to the people of Darfur," the statement said.

At this time, the Ramstein planes will carry only troops, not humanitarian supplies, to the region, Ryder said.

Australia has offered two C-130 Hercules planes as well. The United States has allocated an additional \$20.5 million to provide for logistical assistance to support the peacekeeping mission.

The United States has demanded that Khartoum end its support for the Arab Janjaweed militia, which is accused of an ethnic cleansing campaign against the region's indigenous black African population.

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Think tank: U.S. needed in Iraq for 5 more years

BY BARRY RENFREW

The Associated Press

LONDON — It could be five years before Iraqi forces can guarantee security and allow U.S.-led coalition troops to wind down their role, a leading think tank said Tuesday.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said bringing peace to Iraq will depend on its interim government taking control of security and winning public confidence.

"It is essential that Iraqi security forces become the primary instrument of law and order," the institute said in its annual publication, "The Military Balance."

The institute's director, John Chipman, also addressed the issue of terrorism at a news conference, saying that while the United States remains a top target for al-Qaida, Europe may be at a higher risk of attack because of weaker security and its proximity to the Middle East.

The report highlighted efforts to build

Bringing peace to nation depends on interim government, Iraqi security forces, group says

up Iraqi government forces, but said the task was still in a very early stage. It will take some time before Iraqi forces are ready to take the lead in controlling Iraq and defeating insurgents, it added.

The report said that U.S.-trained government forces currently number 36,000.

"It may take five years for them to obtain the aptitude necessary to guarantee stability," the report said.

Asked when U.S. and other coalition troops would be able to leave, Christopher Langton, editor of the publication, said that will depend on training Iraqi forces and the speed with which they could take over security.

"That will determine how long the U.S. forces will have to be there," Langton said.

Langton noted that the British govern-

ment, the second-largest contributor of coalition forces, has said its troops could stay until at least the end of 2006. He said there were not enough coalition troops in Iraq to ensure security, adding to the need to build up Iraqi government forces.

Success in Iraq is not assured, Chipman said.

"The outcome of the U.S.-led international effort to bring stability to the country is far from certain as the most powerful military power in the world struggles with a multifaceted insurgency," he said.

The study said U.S. commanders are trying to create stability and clear the way for January elections by using air and artillery attacks to hit insurgents, while Iraqi authorities offer talks and aid to insurgents who abandon their struggle.

Iraqi officials need to build up the civil administration to help restore peace, it added.

"The elections, if handled in an efficient and transparent manner and accompanied by the imposition of order, could play a crucial part in this process," it said.

The report also said that up to 1,000 foreign fighters had infiltrated Iraq and were working alongside Sunni Muslims loyal to ousted leader Saddam Hussein to target U.S. troops.

"The substantially exposed U.S. military deployment in Iraq presents al-Qaida with perhaps its most attractive 'iconic' target outside U.S. territory," the report said.

The institute estimated that there are 18,000 potential terrorists plus many more sympathizers around the world. Both that estimate and the figure for foreign fighters inside Iraq are unchanged from last year's report.

The institute is considered the most important security think tank outside the United States.



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Gabriel De La Rosa of U.S. Marine Corps Security Forces, based in Rota, Spain, loads a round of rubber balls into his M203 40 mm grenade launcher Monday during Nonlethal Weapons Training at Panzer Casern in Stuttgart, Germany.

Marines learning nonlethal tactics

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Marines are taught to kill soon after they become Marines.

Some, though, are currently in Stuttgart learning nonlethal ways to do their jobs.

"If we were going up against rioters or even peaceful demonstrators, we'd have a way to disperse the crowd without having to use lethal force on them," said Sgt. Scott Hill of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe, one of 14 Marines taking two weeks of Nonlethal Weapons Training at Panzer Casern.

Nonlethal munitions, such as rubber and foam bullets and sting-balls, are available for use right now in Iraq, according to Staff Sgt. David Smith, an instructor with the 2nd Special Operations Training Group, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The situation in Iraq might currently be too threatening for U.S. troops to use anything other than real bullets, Smith said. But he said nonlethal weapons could eventually play an increasing role in helping troops control crowds wherever it is needed.

"I wouldn't want to replace my lethality with [nonlethal weaponry]," Smith said. "But I'd like to augment with it."

Nonlethal force, the Marines are being taught, is a better option to use in some situations: to keep people away during rescues or evacuations, to help local police quell out-of-control riots and demonstrations and to enforce keep-out zones.

Smith, of Springfield, Ohio, told about a humanitarian mission in Somalia when the crowd rushed a food giveaway site.

"They just wanted food; they didn't mean to be aggressive," he said. "They were just hungry."

Hill, of Chesterland, Ohio, said that two years ago when the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade reopened the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, he might have felt more comfortable having nonlethal munitions available.

Nothing happened as the Marines were escorting the Afghan workers around the compound, Hill said, but nonlethal weaponry "could have been useful."

The nonlethal munitions included beanbags, foam and rubber slugs, and rubber balls that are fired like buckshot. All are fired by Mossberg

590-model 12-gauge shotguns or from grenade launchers attached to the Marines' M-16 rifles.

There also are hand-thrown grenades that shoot craser-size rubber "sting-balls" when they detonate.

The munitions aren't for sharpshooters; their effective ranges are usually closer than 50 meters.

"Any time we're dealing with crowds we're going to be up close with them," Hill said. "So the range of the ammunition shouldn't be a problem."

The Marines are being taught the course so they can turn around and train their troops. Ten of the students were from MARFOREUR, four made the trip from U.S. Marine Corps Security Forces in Rota, Spain.

Among the topics: the effective range of the different weapons; circumstances when the nonlethal weapons could actually kill someone; and which munitions are appropriate for different situations.

Maj. Shannon Geaney of Long Beach, Calif., and MARFOREUR, said nonlethal weapons are for "military operations other than war."

"No longer do we look at every enemy as a mortal enemy," she said.

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.strips.esd.mil

Navy reassigns squadron leader aboard carrier over liberty visit

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — The Navy has reassigned an F-14 Tomcat fighter squadron commander deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy for a "liberty incident" that occurred on a port visit.

Rear Adm. Barry McCullough, commander of the Kennedy Strike Group, replaced Cmdr. Guy Maiden with Capt. W.R. Massey on Sunday, said Mike Maus, a U.S. Atlantic Fleet spokesman in Norfolk, Va. Maus said he could not give any details of the off-duty incident because of privacy concerns.

Maiden was the top officer in charge of Fighter Squadron 103 nicknamed the "Jolly Rogers."

The Navy announced Tuesday that McCullough took "administrative action" against Maiden after a review of the investigation into the Oct. 11 incident. The ship was making a port visit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, when the incident happened, Maus said.

"The U.S. Navy takes these incidents very seriously and holds servicemembers accountable," the Navy said in a statement. "The JFK Strike Group leadership took immediate action to ensure and reinforce accountability for individual actions."

Cmdr. David Landess is en route to the carrier to take command of the squadron. He will serve as the interim commander until the Navy selects a replacement, Maus said. Massey, who is deputy commander of Carrier Air Wing 17, will be in command until Landess arrives aboard ship.

Maiden will be temporarily assigned to a command in the United States.

The Kennedy, which is deployed to the Middle East, has had a tumultuous year.

On Oct. 8, the Navy replaced Rear Adm. John Godwieski as commander of the Kennedy carrier group because of unforeseen complications with a pre-existing medical condition.

On Aug. 27, the Navy fired the commander of the Kennedy because of a collision between the carrier and a small wooden boat in the Persian Gulf.

Earlier this month, a report released by the Navy said faulty equipment aboard the Kennedy and the failure of department heads contributed to the death of a sailor who died in April of toxic fumes while working in the sewage pump room.

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IN THE WORLD

Turkish bath blast hurts 18

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — An apparent gas explosion injured 18 people, including 12 foreign tourists, at a Turkish bath in a Mediterranean resort town Tuesday, officials said.

An unidentified tourist and one Turk were in serious condition at a hospital, a statement from the office of local governor Gunhan Sarikaya said, the Anatolia news agency reported. The bath's owner was among the injured.

"We think a gas leak from a liquid

12 foreign tourists among victims

ueified petroleum gas canister caused the explosion," Sarikaya, said by telephone, adding that the blast occurred when workers were welding a hot water container.

The explosion caused damage to the bath's walls, the Anatolia reported.

The injured included five Germans, three Swedes, two Dutch people and one Russian, according to Sarikaya's office. The na-

tionalities of the seriously injured female tourist was unclear.

Earlier, authorities had said at least one tourist from Norway was also among the injured.

About 30 other bathers who were inside the Turkish bath, or hamam, at the time of the blast, escaped without any injuries, Sarikaya said.

Konakli is close to the resort of Alanya, an area that is popular with visitors from Germany and Russia.

GM plants in Germany halt work as employees protest job cut plan

BY NICOLE LANGE

The Associated Press

BOCHUM, Germany — Lack of parts from a strikebound General Motors plant in Germany halted production at two other auto factories Tuesday, while GM workers across Europe rallied against a plan to cut up to 12,000 jobs on the continent.

About 20,000 people gathered in a downtown square in Bochum in Germany's Ruhr Valley industrial region with German flags and banners proclaiming, "We are fighting bad management."

Bochum workers fear their aging Adam Opel AG plant will be the worst hit, and have stayed off the job since parent company GM announced the restructuring Thursday. They say they won't return to work unless they get assurances that no one will be fired — defying repeated government and union calls to resume production.

"If Opel dies, the city will die, the region will die together, we want to prevent that," the chief employee representative at the plant, Dietmar Hahn, told demonstrators.

The walkout showed its first signs of squeezing GM's business elsewhere in Europe.

Opel spokesman Ulrich Weber said production

at the company's main plant in Rüsselsheim was halted Tuesday morning for lack of parts usually supplied from Bochum, and a plant in Antwerp, Belgium, was also expected to come to a halt Tuesday.

Some 12,000 workers gathered for a march in Rüsselsheim, and work was to stop for two hours at Saab's manufacturing plant in Trollhättan, Sweden, where more than 500 jobs are to go.

"The roof is burning at Opel, and General Motors is trying to put out the fire with gasoline," union official Udo Löwenbrück told demonstrators in Rüsselsheim.

"If they think they can drive their bulldozer mentality through Europe, they are mistaken," said Klaus Franz, Opel's chief employee representative.

Unions called for Tuesday's "day of action" after GM announced that intends to cut at its money-losing Opel, Vauxhall and Saab operations. The company says it must reduce overhead costs to cope with sluggish consumer demand and increased competition from Japanese and other European carmakers.

The company has struggled to fix problems in Europe for years, and Opel's current management concedes that its predecessors left quality problems get out of hand in the late 1990s.

Fisherman catches ancient statue



A fisherman in Greece found this 2,400-year-old bronze statue in his net earlier this month near the Kithnos in the Aegean Sea. The statue — measuring 4 feet, 8 inches tall and weighing nearly 155 pounds — was handed over to a mainland port authority before being taken to Athens under police guard. "Based on preliminary examination of the movement, the fact that the figure is naked, and the anatomical detail, the statue resembles a young athlete," a Culture Ministry statement said.

AP

Spanish TV station airs Madrid bombing footage

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A Spanish TV station on Tuesday broadcast chilling security-camera footage of the Madrid terror attack, including at least one bomb exploding inside a train at Atocha rail station.

The Telecinco footage was believed to mark the first public broadcast of actual video images of the March 11 attacks. The Spanish newspaper El Pais last month published four still shots from a security camera.

The video footage starts with dazed commuters milling about on a smoke-shrouded platform after one explosion. The time on the security camera said 7:38 am. Then, smoke flows toward the

camera and people on the platform are apparently knocked over by another blast.

About five seconds later, a ball of orange flame erupts from a stopped train, filling the screen. The tape includes no sound, just images.

The footage appeared to have been taken from atop an escalator, looking down onto the platform.

Four minutes later, bodies are seen strewn on the platform amid puddles of blood. Police and emergency medical staffers attend to them.

The March 11 attacks killed 191 people and have been blamed on Muslim militants linked to al-Qaida.

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Cleric charged

LONDON — British authorities on Tuesday charged radical Islamic cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri with urging followers to kill non-Muslims and other offenses in a 16-count indictment that pre-empts a U.S. extradition bid.

Al-Masri appeared at Belmarsh Magistrates Court, where prosecutors read out the charges, only one of which fell under anti-terror legislation. The others fell under ordinary criminal law.

He also faces 11 terrorist charges in the United States, but Judge Timothy Workman granted a request from a lawyer representing the United States to suspend the extradition case until the British case was completed.

Al-Masri did not apply for bail. He faces a preliminary hearing on Oct. 26.

The British indictment includes 10 charges of soliciting or encouraging people to commit a person or people who did not believe in the Islamic faith.

From The Associated Press

India kills most wanted criminal

By K.N. ARUN
The Associated Press

MADRAS, India — India's most wanted bandit, a brutal smuggler who spent decades eluding police in dense southern jungles, was killed in a shootout with security forces after being forced to the fringes of his home territory, officials said Tuesday.

Roose Muniswamy Veerappan, 60, was fatally shot in a gunbattle with a special police paramilitary task force late Monday night outside a small village 200 miles south of Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state.

Three of his core gang members were also killed, police said. Relentlessly pursued by securi-

ty forces, Veerappan had been forced in recent months to leave the dense jungle terrain straddling nearly 4,000 square miles in the southern states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, where he was most at home. By the time of his killing he was in a sparsely forested area, far from the center of his power.

"We watched him for several days before the final gunbattle," said K. Vijay Kumar, head of the special task force. Primarily a smuggler of elephant ivory and rare sandalwood, Veerappan was also accused of killing police officers and others during his years in hiding.

With his trademark handlebar mustache, lanky frame and camouflage clothes, the flamboyant outlaw had enjoyed a level of celebrity comparable to the screen idols of India's Bollywood movie industry.

He had been on the run since the late 1960s, when he fell in with ivory smugglers. He was accused of smuggling ivory from



Indian police celebrate Tuesday in Dharmapuri after killing India's most wanted bandit, who spent decades eluding police in dense jungles.

2,000 slaughtered elephants and thousands of tons of sandalwood, which is used for oil, soap, handicrafts and furniture.

He had a 20 million rupee (\$410,000) bounty on his head and had escaped capture twice.

Peasants, in awe of his daring and dependent on his handouts, had helped him cover his tracks. Some politicians also were allegedly in his pay, and police said he terrorized locals by stringing up the bodies of suspected police informants from trees.

Kumar said Veerappan and his comrades were twice offered a

chance to surrender. "The response was not appropriate," he told NDTV television news. "We threw stun grenades and opened fire."

News of Veerappan's death was greeted Tuesday with relief.

"It is like the killing of a demon," said Raghuvendra Rajkumar, son of Rajkumar, one of southern India's most popular movie stars, who was kidnapped by Veerappan four years ago.

Efforts to capture Veerappan were stepped up after his gang in August 2000 seized the then 17-year-old matinee idol, holding him captive in the jungle.

A whale of a name

OSLO, Norway — A young Norwegian with a hankering for an unusual name likely won't win any friends among fans of the "Free Willy" films or, for that matter, among conservationists.

The 20-year-old, who works in a butcher shop, legally changed his middle name to Keikoborg this month, Norwegian media reported Tuesday.

Keiko, a killer whale, starred in the trilogy of "Free Willy" films, about a young boy who befriends a captive orca. The six-ton Keiko died in remote Taknes Bay in December, likely from pneumonia, after swimming to Norway from Iceland in 2002 in a failed effort to return him to the wild.

Norway is the only country that conducts commercial whaling, despite a global ban and protests. Norwegians eat the red meat of minke whales — not of orcas — which are sometimes ground into whaleburgers.

Leaping into the abyss

ZAGREB, Croatia — Austrian base-jumper Felix Baumgartner on Tuesday pulled off one of his most dangerous stunts, leaping into a 657-foot chasm in Croatia's rugged Velebit mountain range.

"The pit is simply everything you don't want to be. It is a deep, dark hole with an exceptionally sharp and an uneven rim," said Baumgartner, told the state-owned news agency HINA.

"It is all in concentration and timing," said the 35-year-old known for jumps from the world's highest building — the Petronas Tower in Malaysia — and parachuting across the English Channel.

Baumgartner had flares placed at the foot of the abyss and an MP3 disc player counting down the seconds during his fall to aid him.

The Austrian prepared several months for his stunt, including laser-guided measurements and air-balloon expeditions.

German hiker missing

SALZBURG, Austria — Rescue officials said Tuesday they have suspended their search for a German who discovered a frozen Bronze Age mummy fragment intact in 1991.

Gendarmes in the mountainous Pongau region of Austria's Salzburg province said they would wait for warmer weather to resume their search for Helmut Simon, 67, of Nuremberg, who disappeared Friday morning while hiking in the area and was presumed dead.

Local authorities said their search was hampered by 18 inches of fresh snow that fell at higher altitudes over the weekend. They decided to wait until the snow melted and mount a helicopter search, the Austria Press Agency reported.

Authorities said they doubt that Simon could survive the harsh conditions at 8,100 feet, the elevation where they believe he was hiking when he disappeared.

In 1991, Simon and his wife, Erica, discovered "Otter," the mummified remains of a prehistoric hunter that were remarkably well-preserved in glacier ice for 5,300 years. The remains are now on display in a museum and draw 300,000 visitors each year.

From The Associated Press

Moscow's wealthy flock to luxury show

By ALEX NICHOLSON
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — If there's an atmosphere of economic fear in Russia, as a top Kremlin adviser claimed recently, it doesn't seem to be ruining the appetites of Moscow's wealthy for jewels, jets and junkets.

A weekend show of super-luxury goods attracted thousands and provided a window into the usually closed world of Russia's richest.

That includes diamond-encrusted, bottles of vodka worth \$25,000, jewelry for pets and yachts longer than a football field.

As Russia's economy has flourished, buoyed by high world oil prices, the nation has become a top hunting ground for companies selling goods and services that only a few can afford.

Purveyors to the world's wealthy were out in force Saturday at Extravaganza, a luxury trade show that travels the world with stops in-

cluding such boomtowns as Dubai and Shanghai. Its Russian stint was the show's second in two years.

Exhibitor Reinert Wenz, head of Germany's Jet Connection private plane charter company, said orders from Russian clients had grown by 30 percent for the past two years.

"They're next to China in terms of development," Wenz said.

"I was in Shanghai last week; it's the same phenomenal momentum that you see here."

Organizers of the invitation-only show said attendance was substantially higher this year than last year's edition, which attracted about 3,000, but exact figures weren't available.

The heightened interest came despite rising concerns about Russia's economic conditions. The politically charged tax cases against the Yukos oil company and the jailing of its ex-CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky have sparked criticism that Russia is callous about shareholder protection and rule of law.

President Vladimir Putin's economic adviser Andrei Ilanov last week said Russia's future is clouded by an "atmosphere of fear" raised by the Yukos cases.

But there's still plenty of cash in some pockets in Russia.

Moscow this year overtook New York as home to the world's most billionaires, Forbes magazine's Russian edition said in May.

Among the stalls totting jewelry, classic sports cars, villas in the Bahamas and vodka in Fabergé eggs, businessman Ivan Ulanov was particularly taken by one offer. For \$150,000 per week, Sea to Sky Holidays will lay out on a yacht cruise of the Alaskan fjords. A helicopter on board whisks guests inland for heli-skiing after breakfast.

The idea of cruising the coast of what once was Russia appeals to Ulanov. "I don't mean it in an imperialist way, but for any Russian, Alaska is our little homeland from czarist times."

EU allows Chinese woman to reside in Britain

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union's high court ruled on Tuesday that a Chinese woman and her Northern Ireland-born daughter had the right to live in Britain, where the woman fled to escape China's one-child restrictions.

The court in Luxembourg said that because Man Lavette Chen's daughter, Kunquian Catherine Zhu, is an Irish citizen with sufficient financial resources and health insurance, both mother and daughter are entitled to live in any EU member state.

The court pointed out that the EU's founding treaty prohibits

The mother gave birth to her second child in Belfast, Ireland, in 2000 to escape China's one-child policy that punishes parents who have more than one child without government permission.

member countries from discriminating against citizens of other EU nations. It added that European humanitarian rules allow the mother of an infant EU citizen's mother to also live in the European Union.

Prohibiting Chen from staying with Catherine "would render

her daughter's right of residence totally ineffective," the court said.

Chen left China in 2000 to escape the country's "one-child policy," which imposes fines and restrictions on parents who have more than one child without government permission.

Already the mother of a son,

Chen traveled to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to give birth to her second child. Although Northern Ireland is under British rule, Chen acquired Irish nationality for her daughter under Irish laws that offer citizenship to any child born on the island of Ireland.

Giving European Union rules allowing EU citizens to move among other member nations, Chen then moved her daughter to Britain and claimed right of residence. Mother and daughter currently live in Cardiff, Wales, and do not rely on financial assistance from the British government.

The British Home Office resisted Chen's claim, but an appeals body referred the case to the EU's high court.

IN THE STATES

Seniors told to avoid flu-shot lines

BY MITCH STACY

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said Monday that enough flu vaccine will be available for most people who need it and told seniors to stop standing in long lines to get a shot.

"We want people to relax," Thompson said at a news conference. "The flu season is not here."

On Tuesday, President Bush reassured older Americans that those most vulnerable will receive their shots.

"I know some here who are worried about the flu season," Bush said during a rally, the first of three campaign appearances in the battleground state of Florida. "We have millions of vaccine doses on hand for the most vulnerable Americans. Millions more

will be shipped in the coming weeks."

Seniors around the country have been standing in lines at shopping plazas to get flu shots since news of a shortage surfaced this month. British regulators shut down shipments from Chiron Corp., which had made millions of flu shots earmarked for the U.S. market. The shutdown cut the U.S. supply of flu shots almost in half.

Thompson said the flu vaccine supply will be reallocated to parts of the country where it is needed most. Seniors and very young children are most at risk for severe complications from the flu.

"We are looking all over the regions to find out where there is a shortage, and we will redeploy the resources to make sure the seniors get the vaccine first," he said. He noted that 91 percent of

flu deaths last year were people 65 or older.

Thompson advised people to first seek the shot from their doctor or a clinic. If that fails, they should contact the CDC in Atlanta, he said.

Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that only a few cases of flu have been reported this season, and that 20 million doses would soon be available for seniors.

"We are reassuring people that vaccine is on the way," she said. Last week, however, Gerberding had said it was unlikely all high-risk people who want a flu shot would be able to find one.

Health officials in Ottawa, Canada, said Monday they may have more than 2 million doses of surplus flu vaccine to help the United

States battle its shortage, although U.S. officials have cautioned that imports were unlikely to be licensed in time for this flu season.

A Canadian manufacturer has more than 1 million extra doses and as many as 1 million other doses could become available, depending on Canadian demand, said David Butler-Jones, Canada's public health officer.

In Atlanta on Monday, Dr. Mitchell Cohen, director of the CDC's coordinating center for infectious diseases, said the current vaccine "will be distributed over a six- to seven-week period, so we have some opportunity to identify those areas" that need supplies "over the next week or so."

He said his staff was continuing to compile supply reports from each state but declined to name places that were low on flu shots.

Military bases dole out limited vaccines

BY ESTES THOMPSON

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — At military bases already strained by the demands of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the men and women who defended the nation aren't being defended against the flu.

Soldiers who deploy are getting shots once they receive their orders, as are young children and others in at-risk groups, according to base spokesmen from around the state. But for many others in the military, flu shots are as scarce as they are for civilians.

Normally, the Navy hospital at Camp Lejeune would be getting 50,000 to 60,000 doses of flu vaccine for more than 40,000 active duty Marines, dependents and retirees.

"There are none aboard the base at this time," said George Reynolds, director of community health at Lejeune's hospital, which also covers needs at the New River air station. "We have not received the first dose."

Deploying troops are exceptions to the federal rules that suggest only at-risk groups such as young children, the elderly and the chronically ill should receive the vaccine.

Marines who get deployment orders as well as special operations soldiers and aviators also classified as highly deployable — meaning they might be called to leave the country at any time — will get vaccinated only once the Department of Defense decides how to dole out the military's vaccine supply.

But Marines who are staying at the base and normally would get flu shots will not this year. Anyone who comes down with the flu will be quarantined and treated by medical personnel, Reynolds said.

"We don't normally find high-risk people on active duty," Reynolds said. "They're all healthy individuals."

North Carolina's other large military installation, Fort Bragg — also is grappling with how to handle a limited supply of vaccine.

Army hospital spokeswoman Shannon Lynch said soldiers deploying with the 18th Airborne Corps will receive the vaccine, but those who stay behind will not.

High-risk dependents will be vaccinated as shots become available.

"Then it's pretty much take care of yourself, for the rest of us," Lynch said. "If you're sick, don't go to work. If you sneeze, cover your mouth. Wash your hands frequently. If you use someone else's telephone, wipe it down."

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OPINION

Climate right to determine why species died

BY BETSY MASON
 Contra Costa (Calif.) Times

SALWAT CREEK, Calif. Walnuts, giant ground sloths roamed across North America until 10,000 years ago, when nearly every large mammal on the continent disappeared. For decades, scientists have been trying to uncover why.

Now a University of California research team says the answer could be a harbinger of things to come.

The scientific community has been ripped in two over this issue and tensions run high between those who would blame humans' arrival, thought to be just 1,000 years or so before the extinctions, and those who point to climatic upheaval at the end of the last ice age.

In recent years, evidence against prehistoric humanity has been piling up. But now a team from UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz have done the scientific equivalent of a bipartisan look at the evidence and weighed in on the intense debate in the pages of the journal *Science* this month.

Their verdict is that neither suspect is innocent.

"It's really a combination of human and climate change," said UC Berkeley paleobiologist Anthony Barnosky. "It's this one-two punch that's the killer, so to speak."

Today, with a growing population and global warming, both elements of that combination are ramping up at unprecedented rates. It's a situation that could spell disaster for the planet's current crop of large mammals, Barnosky said.

The oldest solid evidence of human presence in central North America dates to some where between 11,000 and 11,500 years ago. This first group, known as the Clovis civilization, was full of hunters who left stone spearheads scattered across the landscape. In a few cases, the spearheads have been found at "kill sites" along with mammoth and mastodon bones.

Around 1,500 years later, mammoths,

mastodons and more than 30 other large North American mammals including camels, rhinos, saber-toothed cats and giant ground sloths, were all extinct. The suspicious timing, along with the kill sites, led many scientists to the idea that humans either hunted these animals into oblivion or by one in a prehistoric blitzkrieg, or at least killed enough to trigger a population collapse.

But clouding the picture is the fact that the last ice age was ending at the same time. Glaciers that once covered most of the continent were receding and weather systems and vegetation patterns were undergoing drastic reorganization. Some scientists think the stress of this upheaval was the more likely culprit in the extinctions.

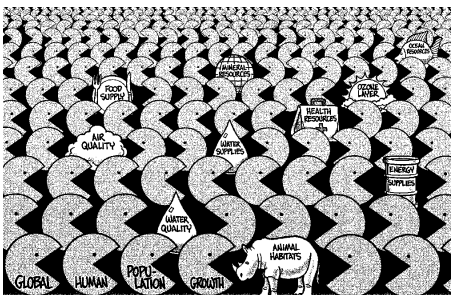
The most likely scenario is that the combination was to blame, said UC Santa Cruz paleobiologist Paul Koch. "Humans were setting this catastrophe in motion, but at the same time there was a strong climate signal."

The picture is somewhat less muddled in other parts of the world that also suffered mass extinctions. In Australia, people arrived around 50,000 years ago and most of the largest animals were gone 10,000 years later, including giant carnivorous kangaroos, horned tortoises the size of Volkswagen Beetles, and 6-foot-tall birds. All the while, climate was relatively stable.

Disagreement persists about whether the Australian extinctions were caused directly by hunting or by people burning the landscape to ease travel and hunting, but most agree that somehow people are to blame.

In Alaska and the Yukon, however, several large animals such as short-faced bears, two species of horses and the local population of mammoths all disappeared before there is any evidence of human invasion. The same is true for some species of deer and elk in Ireland. In both cases, climate change coincides with the extinctions.

And in Europe, there is evidence of human hunting for at least 40,000 years with no extinctions. But around 50,000 years ago, when the climate was cooling rapidly,



and 20,000 years ago, when it started heating back up, there are spikes of extinctions.

Similarly, in Africa many large mammals have managed to escape extinction over hundreds of thousands of years of commingling with humans.

All of this evidence from around the globe points to a lethal combination, Barnosky said. "Humans were very much a driving force, but where you really had the most pronounced extinctions is where you had climate change and humans coming together at the same time."

Central North America remains the most controversial, as well as the most studied, case of recent mass extinctions, and each new piece of evidence fuels the debate.

Looking even further back in the history of mammals before humans had evolved, over the last 65 million years extinctions don't match up with major climate changes, said evolutionary biologist John Alroy of UC Santa Barbara.

"There are tons and tons of climate changes in the fossil record of mammals, but these recent mass extinctions are unprecedented," Alroy said. "I think once you got humans onto the [North American] continent, climate became totally irrelevant."

Still, others think humans merely swept into North America for the coup de grâce, speeding the inevitable end of a process brought on by climate change.

"Without environmental change, people weren't able to bring them down elsewhere like Africa and Europe," said paleontologist Holmes Semken of the University of Iowa. "So there's got to be more than just people involved."

If Barnosky and Koch are right about human population growth and rapid climate change being a killer combo in the past, they think this could be an important lesson for the future. With global warming potentially heating up the climate at an unprecedented rate, and ever increasing pressure from spiraling population growth, today's large mammals may soon go the way of the mammoth.

National credit-card bill is in, and it draws interest

BY DALE MCFEATERS
 Scripps Howard

The deficit figures for the federal fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 are in and they are bad, maybe not quite as bad as predicted, but still bad.

For fiscal 2004, the federal government spent \$413 billion more than it took in, an all-time record in absolute dollars and the largest shortfall since World II in inflation-adjusted dollars.

The Bush administration argues that the deficit is far less than forecast, thus showing economic improvement, and that the deficit is a manageable 3.6 percent of GDP, well below the record 6 percent in 1983. Treasury Secretary John Snow says we're on track to meet President Bush's goal of halving the deficit in five years.

As they say, "Yes, but ..." At the start of the year, the White House forecast a deficit of \$521 billion in a forecast that most analysts regarded as a highball, intentionally overstated so that the White House could later claim, as it is doing now, that the shortfall is not as bad as predicted.

Still, the more restrained forecast of the Congressional Budget Office was for \$477 billion. Even if this year's number could have been worse, it's still a lot more red ink than last year's \$377 billion, itself a record. The nation has been in deficit since 2001 and each succeeding deficit has been larger.

The same with the 3.6 percent of GDP. Yes, it's manageable but it is growing, and it is now the highest since 1993. The Bush administration had hoped to grow its way out of the deficit, but the recession ended in November 2001 and growth has been solid since then.

The Reagan administration did set a record with a deficit that was 6 percent of GDP, but that followed the economically miserable year of 1982, one of the worst since

the Depression. By contrast, 2003 and 2004 have been good economic years.

Says the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities: "Few occasions in U.S. history have produced budget deteriorations this large over a four-year period." ...

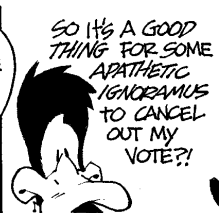
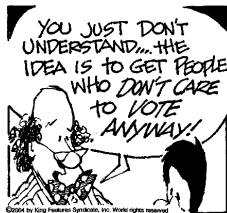
How did we get here? The administration's and Congress' relentless focus on cutting taxes and more at all on controlling spending. The president could well finish his first term without ever vetoing a bill. The

administration argues that it has been forced to increase defense spending — and it has by about 20 percent — but nondefense spending is less than 25 percent. And there is now that costly Medicare drug entitlement.

All this might not matter, but the country has to be in sound economic shape to pay the massive impending health and retirement costs of the baby boom generation. We can't say we haven't been warned.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Cheney: Kerry not astough on terror

BY ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS

The Associated Press

CARROLL, Ohio — Vice President Dick Cheney on Tuesday evoked the possibility of terrorists bombing U.S. cities with nuclear weapons and questioned whether Sen. John Kerry could combat such a threat, which the vice president called a concept "you've got to get your mind around."

"The biggest threat we face now as a nation is the possibility of terrorists ending up in the middle of one of our cities with nuclear weapons that have never been used against us—biological agents or a nuclear weapon or a chemical weapon of some kind to be able to threaten the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans," Cheney said.

"That's the ultimate threat. For us to have a strategy that's capable of defeating that threat, you've got to get your mind around that concept," Cheney said.

Cheney, speaking to an invitation-only crowd as he began a bus tour through Republican strongholds in Ohio, said Kerry is trying to convince voters he would be the same type of "tough, aggressive" leader as Bush in the fight against terrorism.

"I can't believe it," the vice president said. "I don't think there's any evidence to support the proposition that he would, in fact, do it."

Cheney praised the recent elections in Afghanistan but said they didn't mean the U.S. mission there is finished.

"That's what means we've won and we can walk away? No, it doesn't," he said. "This is three yards and a cloud of dust. There's no touchdown passes in this business. We'll stay as long as we need to help them train their own security forces, which we're doing actively so they can take over responsibility for their own security."

In a campaign appearance Monday in Johnstown, Pa.,



Vice President Dick Cheney kicks off a bus tour of Ohio Tuesday with a town hall meeting at an airport hangar in Carroll.

Cheney criticized rival vice presidential candidate John Edwards for going "overboard" in his comments about Kerry's support of unrestricted federal funding for stem cell research, which Bush and Cheney oppose. He also accused Edwards of giving people "false hope."

Edwards told supporters in Newton, Iowa, on Oct. 11, "If we do the work that we can do in this country, the work that we will do when John Kerry is president, people like Christopher Reeve will get up out of that wheelchair and walk again." The actor, a quadriplegic who became an advocate for stem cell research, had died a day earlier.

"I thought, frankly, the other day what John Edwards suggested... was an inappropriate remark... given the false hope it engendered," Cheney said.

Bush, Kerry ads feature relatives of 9/11 victims

BY LIZ SIDOTI

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In emotional appeals, relatives of people who lost loved ones in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks vouch for President Bush or Democratic John Kerry in new TV ads that try to persuade voters that just one of the two would best lead the country in a time of terrorism.

"I want to look in my daughter's eyes and know that she is safe, and that is why I am voting for John Kerry," Kristen Breitweiser, whose husband was killed in the attacks, says in an ad by the Democratic campaign.

In another commercial by a Republican interest group, Ohio teenager Ashley Faulkner recalls being comforted by Bush after her mother died in the attacks. The president is shown embracing her.

"He's the most powerful man in the

world, and all he wants to do is make sure I'm safe, that I'm OK," the girl says.

With two weeks to go in the presidential campaign, terrorism, the 2001 attacks, and the Iraq war are dominating the TV ad wars as commercials on those topics fill airwaves in key battleground states and on national cable networks.

On Monday, Bush began running a new commercial that calls Kerry and his liberal allies "a risk the country can't afford to take."

His ad says, "After Sept. 11, our world changed. Either we fight terrorists abroad or face them here."

Over the past two days, Kerry has launched at least three ads about those issues. One assails Bush for a comment he made that "I truly am not that concerned about him," a reference to Osama bin Laden. Another released Tuesday argues that "it's time for a fresh start" and has

Kerry assuring voters "I'll stop at nothing to get the terrorists before they get us."

Breitweiser narrates the third. Her husband, Ron, died in the World Trade Center, and her appeal on behalf of Kerry attempts to make the case that voters should back Bush.

The ad is filled with family photographs, including one in which her husband cradles their infant daughter. She says, "I fought for the 9/11 Commission, something George W. Bush, the man my husband Ron and I voted for, didn't think was necessary. And during the commission hearings we learned the truth: We are not safer today."

Progress for America is spending \$14 million over the next two weeks to run its ad featuring the teenager Ashley Faulkner on cable networks and in nine states — Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa, New Mexico, Nevada, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri.

Broadcaster fires reporter who criticized anti-Kerry show

BY KASEY JONES

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Sinclair Broadcast fired its Washington bureau chief, saying he revealed company business when he discussed its upcoming program on a documentary critical of John Kerry's anti-Vietnam War activities.

Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc. said in a statement late Monday that it fired reporter Jon Lieberman and that "we are disappointed that Jon's political views caused him to violate company policy and speak to the press about company business."

In his initial remarks, published Monday by The (Baltimore) Sun, Lieberman called the Sinclair show "biased political propaganda, with clear intentions to sway this election."

Lieberman said he was fired Monday by Joseph DeFeo, Sinclair's vice president for

news, and escorted out of the company's headquarters in Hunt Valley, Md. "I was told I violated company policy by divulging information from a staff meeting" to The Sun, Lieberman said late Monday.

Lieberman said staffers were told at a Sunday meeting that the news division would handle the hourlong show, based on the documentary "Stolen Honor: Wounds That Never Heal."

The 42-minute documentary features former prisoners of war accusing Kerry, a decorated veteran who took up the anti-war cause upon returning from Vietnam, of prolonging the war and worsening their plight. Sinclair said last week it hadn't been decided how much of the documentary would appear in the completed show.

The Democratic National Committee has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission contending that airing

the film should be considered an illegal in-kind contribution to the Bush campaign. Lieberman, 29, said he told DeFeo he would not participate in preparing the program about the film and that he objected to it being labeled news rather than commentary.

"We have no further comment on the actions of a disgruntled employee or an ongoing personnel matter," the Sinclair statement said. "Viewers can grade Lieberman's opinion versus the reality when the finished product is aired."

Lieberman said he was not disgruntled and that the company had largely treated him well before now.

"I love what I do, but I love doing news. ... And I just felt like nobody was listening."

Earlier this month, Sinclair ordered its 62 TV stations across the country to pre-empt regular programming to air the show.

Drumming energizing young voters

BY RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Kerry says re-energizing President Bush would create "the great potential of a draft." Not so, responds the incumbent: "The best way to avoid the draft is to vote for me." The fact that both Bush and Kerry are on record opposing mandatory military service speaks volumes about the audience they're targeting — young voters. The voting rate and preferences of 18- to 30-year-olds may be the biggest wild card on Nov. 2.

One of the things that have been puzzling us is how young voters will behave on Election Day," said Andrew Kohut, an independent pollster at the Pew Research Center. "They've been pretty volatile, sometimes strongly in Kerry's camp and other times driven back to Bush."

Young voters were divided between Bush and Kerry in polling conducted this month by Ipsos Public Affairs for Newsweek and The Associated Press. Among likely voters under age 30, Kerry led 52 percent to 42 percent. Exit polls from the 2000 election showed that Bush roughly split the under-30 vote with Democrat Al Gore.

Traditionally, young Americans have been among the least likely to vote. Of the 24 million eligible voters ages 18 to 24 in 2000, only one-third of them cast ballots, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This year, Kohut said his polling shows an increase of 15 percentage points over 2000 in the number of young people saying they're registered to vote.

The research also shows a spike in the number of youths who say they're likely to vote. Count Kerry led among them. The year-old George Washington University student began the year favoring Bush but is now in Kerry's camp. "I don't like the war in Iraq, and I'm opposed to the war in Iraq," said the 20-year-old student absentee in his hometown of New York City.

Farther down the street, fellow GWU student Ted Kennedy, 19, said it is firmly behind Bush after briefly wavering. The volunteer firefighter says Bush deserves a second term for his leadership after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, including the war in Iraq. "I'm the wrong person to ask about the draft, because if my number came up, I'm there. I'd fight. In a minute," he said.

The University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election survey found that half of young people believe Bush wants to reinstate the military draft. Only 8 percent said Kerry wants it.

The day poll was released, Bush said in his second debate with Kerry, "We're not going to have a draft, period."

Kerry wouldn't let it go. A week later, the Democrat told The Des Moines Register, "With George Bush, the plan for Iraq is more of the same and the great potential of a draft."

Campaigning in a Florida community dependent on the military, Bush fired back Saturday. "We will not have a draft. ... The best way to avoid a draft is to vote for me." On Monday, Bush accused Kerry of scare tactics and insisted he would not bring back the military draft, even if there were a crisis with North Korea or Iran. "I believe we've got the assets and manpower necessary to deal with anything another theater should one arise," Bush said.

Special-interest groups backing Kerry are fueling rumors of a draft in a second Bush term. MoveOn.org's "No Draft" campaign is launching a nationwide campaign "Feel a Draft?" campaign to demand an exit strategy in Iraq and urge Bush to detail a specific plan to avoid the draft.

"There is no doubt that there is a lot of distress about both the backdoor draft that already exists and the likelihood of instituting a regular draft if Bush continues these go-it-alone policies," said Kerry pollster Mark Melnick.

Kerry has argued that a "backdoor draft" exists because some U.S. forces have been required to extend their military contracts to stay in Iraq.

Trevor Tipton of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Escalade tops list of most-stolen vehicles

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Cadillac Escalade EXT, a \$53,000 chrome-trimmed luxury pickup with leather bucket seats, a seven-speaker stereo system with satellite radio and a global tracking system, is the vehicle most-targeted by thieves, a study by the insurance industry found.

It's the second year in a row that an Escalade has been at the top of the list, which was released Tuesday by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The Escalade topped utility vehicle topped last year's list, this year, that SUV is third.

The Nissan Maxima, a midsize sedan, is the second most likely to be stolen among new vehicles. The Maxima's theft rate went up after the company began install-

ing expensive, high-intensity headlights as standard equipment in 2002, the institute said.

The institute calculated which newer vehicles are most likely to be stolen by looking at theft claims per 1,000 insured vehicles from model years 2001 to 2003. The Escalade EXT had a claim rate of 20.2. The lowest-ranking vehicles — the Buick LeSabre, Buick Park Avenue and Ford Taurus station wagon — had claim rates of 0.5.

Escalade owners often add custom wheels and spinning rims that can increase the vehicle's cost by more than \$10,000 — and help make it seven to eight times more likely to be stolen than the average new vehicle.

Hazelbaker said the Escalade EXT has a standard anti-theft ignition immobilizer, which prevents the vehicle from being started

without the right key, but it may not be as effective as newer systems. General Motors Corp. spokeswoman Kelly Wysocki confirmed that the system used on all current Escalades as well as 2005 models is aging. She said GM is considering a change soon.

A design change may cut down on theft rates for the Maxima. The 2004 Maxima has headlights that won't fit into earlier models, so the theft rate may go down because thieves won't be trying to steal the headlights to put on older models, Hazelbaker said.

Russ Rader, a spokesman for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, said immobilizers have been the most-effective way to stop thefts. Rader said, however, that no prevention efforts are perfect.

"The bottom line is that if a determined thief wants your vehicle, there's not a whole lot that you can do," Rader said.

Luxury pickup tops highest theft rates

The 2002-03 Cadillac Escalade EXT has the highest theft rate claims among new passenger vehicles, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.



Highest theft claims, 2001-03 passenger vehicles

TYPE OF VEHICLE	CLAIMS PER 1,000 VEHICLES
'02-'03 Cadillac Escalade EXT (luxury pickup)	20.2
'02-'03 Nissan Maxima (midsize four-door car)	17.0
'02-'03 Cadillac Escalade (luxury SUV)	10.2
Dodge Stratus/Chrysler Sebring (midsize four-door car)	8.3
Dodge Intrepid (large four-door car)	7.9

SOURCE: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

AP

World Trade Center insurance trial begins

BY KAREN MATTHEWS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Lawyers in the second World Trade Center insurance trial clashed during opening statements in federal court Monday over the relevance of a boilerplate policy that defined the 2001 terrorist attack as one event.

Bernard Nusbaum, a lawyer for trade center leaseholder Larry Silverstein, said none of the nine defendants in this case had signed onto the so-called Wilpro form.

In the first trial earlier this year, a jury ruled that 13 other insurance companies were bound by the form, which used language that defined the two planes hitting the two towers as one event.

"None of the nine companies in this case can claim its coverage was governed by the Wilpro form," Nusbaum said.

But Harvey Kurzwel, a lawyer for Travelers Indemnity Co., told the jurors that the parties in-

tended for the companies that insured the trade center to a complicated 12-layer system to provide consistent coverage even if the contract wording differed from one company to another.

"The evidence will show that this coverage had to be seamless or else you will have gaps in coverage," he said.

Silverstein has argued that the trade center was destroyed by two events and he said that insurance payouts of \$3.5 billion each. He suffered a blow when the jury in the first trial ruled that it constituted one event under contract language that affected those 13 insurers.

If Silverstein's lawyers can convince jurors in the second trial that two terrorism incidents occurred, he will stand to collect double the \$1.1 billion of coverage provided by the nine defendants in this case.

Silverstein has vowed to rebuild 10 million square feet of of-

fice space at ground zero regardless of how much money he collects from insurers. He and redevelopment officials plan to construct the 1,776-foot Freedom Tower, other skyscrapers and cultural buildings within the next decade.

Nusbaum told the jury that the evidence would show that two planes hitting two towers caused two separate fires and two separate building collapses.

"You will see that we suffered two distinct physical losses," he said.

Kurzwel said that regardless of the sequence of events, the terrorism was part of a single, coordinated plot. And he said there was "a common industry understanding that 'occurrence' has a broad, aggregate meaning."

The two sides gave different interpretations of a clause in the Allianz Insurance Co. policy that stipulated that losses from tornadoes, cyclones, other natural di-

asters and "vandalism and malicious mischief" should be construed as one occurrence if losses happened within a 72-hour period.

Nusbaum said the clause did not include airplane crashes or fires, but Allianz attorney John Massopust said insurance professionals including Silverstein's broker, Willis Group Holdings Ltd., have defined "vandalism and malicious mischief" to include terrorism.

The first trial, which ended in May, focused on whether the 13 of the trade center's coverage were bound by the Wilpro form. The current trial may include more evidence about what occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, though U.S. District Judge Michael Mukasey ruled in a pre-trial hearing that Silverstein's lawyers would not be permitted to show jurors photos from Sept. 11 or to put "a sound and light show" to try to influence them.

Stem-cell endorsement

SAN FRANCISCO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has endorsed a \$3 billion bond measure that would fund human embryonic stem cell research, a move that bucks Republican leaders and threatens to further strain the state's budget.

"California has always been a pioneer," Schwarzenegger said Monday. "We dangled lead the way for the high-tech industry and now voters can help ensure we lead the way for the biotech industry."

The endorsement puts Schwarzenegger at odds with the state Republican Party and perhaps the Bush administration, which has limited federal funding of the research.

Benefits increase

WASHINGTON — More than 47 million Americans receiving Social Security will get a 2.7 percent increase — an extra \$25, on average — in their monthly checks in January.

The Social Security Administration announced the cost-of-living adjustment Tuesday, and the increase will start showing up in checks in January.

The latest increase was the largest since benefits rose by 3.5 percent in 2001. A 21 percent increase went into effect at the beginning of this year.

Celbrex to be studied

NEW YORK — Pfizer Inc. plans a major study to see if its pain medication Celbrex can help osteoarthritis patients at risk for cardiovascular disease.

The announcement Monday comes almost three weeks after Merck & Co. pulled Vioxx, its rival drug that is also in a class of drugs called cox-2 inhibitors, from the market because it doubled the risk of heart attack and strokes in patients taking the medication longer than 18 months.

Last week, Pfizer said a study showed that Celbrex, another cox-2 inhibitor it sells, increased the risk of heart attacks in patients that had coronary bypass operations.

From The Associated Press

Hospital postpones Web-brokered organ transplant

The Associated Press

DENVER — A kidney transplant brokered by a Massachusetts-based Web site was postponed Monday after hospital officials said they wanted to make sure the organ donation was ethical.

The announcement came on the same day a Colorado man had been scheduled to receive a kidney from a donor in Tennessee. They were brought together by the Web site MatchingDonors.com, and the transplant was to be the first performed with the help of the site.

However, after the donation was arranged, the lead transplant surgeon, Dr. Igal Kam, returned from out of town and raised questions about how the match had

been arranged, said Stephanie Lewis, a spokeswoman for Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center.

Officials decided to look into whether the Canton, Mass.-based Web site or Smitty profited from the donation, she said.

Bob Hickey, 58, who was to receive the kidney, told KWGN-TV that he reported at the hospital as scheduled Monday morning and was being prepared for surgery when he was told it would be postponed.

He said he was told the delay was because he didn't use the United Network for Organ Sharing, a nonprofit group that works with organ transplant centers to facilitate transplants.

He told the station that he was considering possible legal action against the hospital.

"I don't know what else to do," he said.

Lewis said hospital officials had heard any complaints about the Web site but simply wanted to verify that all ethical guidelines were being followed. She said the company agreed to provide information to answer their questions.

"Because it's so new we're not able to investigate things as quickly. So that's why all these things are coming to light so close to the transplant," she said.

Messages left after hours at the company were not returned Monday.

The company, which provides a way for patients in need of organ donations to meet living donors,

charges patients \$295 a month to be listed. According to the Web site, all of that money is used to operate the site. Donations are also accepted to cover the costs of patients who want to be listed.

Hickey, a doctor and former health care executive from Edwards, Colo., met Robert Smitty, the man donating his kidney, for the first time last week. Smitty, 32, a photographer, had offered two from Chattanooga, Tenn., said he was hoping to find someone who was "family-oriented" who needed a donation.

Hickey and his wife, a nurse, have four grown sons.

Hickey, who lost one kidney to disease only to have the second fail, said he got 4,500 hits from people interested in being a donor through the Web site.

Safety drill

MD LARGO — Two loud explosions rocked a Metro train at the new Largo station. But this was only a drill.

Metro teamed with fire and rescue squads from the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia to simulate a rescue operation for about 15 mock victims trapped in a burning train. It was an exercise designed to prepare firefighters to work safely near the electrified rail that powers the subway trains.

The goal is to keep rescuers safe, said Fred C. Goodine, Metro's assistant general manager for safety and risk protection. Metro is the nation's only transit system that has invested in the rescue carts that ride on the tracks to carry equipment or victims and also the electrical safety equipment that rescuers need, Goodine said.

Boater saves the day

FL NEW PORT RICHEY — Three people were helped from a burning casino shuttle boat by an off-duty Coast Guard rescue swimmer who was boating nearby.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Morgan drove his private boat to the 75-foot shuttle and rescued the three people on board, the Coast Guard said in a news release. One of the victims was hospitalized for treatment of smoke inhalation.

The shuttle boat, which belongs to the Sun Cruise Casino ship, caught fire in a channel and burned to its waterline. The Coast Guard was investigating.

The victims' names were not released.

Wellstone memorial

MN EVELETH — A new memorial will honor the late Sen. Paul Wellstone, his wife and daughter, and five others who died in a plane crash in 2002.

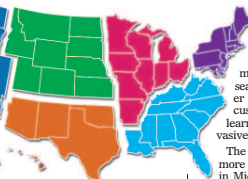
The design of the Wellstone Memorial and Historic Site is scheduled to be unveiled near the crash site, which is in a swamp two miles south of the Eveleth airport.

Wellstone, his wife, Sheila, and their daughter, Marcia Markuson, along with three campaign workers and two pilots, were killed on Oct. 25, 2002, just days before the Senate election.

The memorial to the progressive Democrat, who served 12 years in the Senate, includes a walking trail featuring plaques about the victims and a monument near the crash site, said Bill Lofy, spokesman for Wellstone Action, a non-partisan, nonprofit political training organization founded by Wellstone's sons.

Seeking higher pay

HI HONOLULU — The president of the union representing Hawaii public school teachers says he wants the most experienced teachers to eventually be paid \$100,000 a year. Roger Takabayashi said he would like to see salaries of \$45,000 a year for starting teachers and an average salary of \$60,000. Teachers now start at



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

\$36,486, average \$42,768 and top out at \$66,203.

Don't forget the porn

UT LOGAN — A sheriff's department in northern Utah is requiring deputies to begin documenting pornography found at crime scenes and during arrests.

Lt. Matt Bilodeau, spokesman for the Cache County Sheriff's Department, said that although no connection between legal porn viewing and criminal behavior has ever been proven, police have seen a steady increase in porn associated with crimes.

He likened the new tracking system to the approach police use with gang members.

Dani Eyer, head of the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, compared the program to scouring a suspect's bookshelf and trying to create a criminal profile from the things that person reads.

Insecticides save trees

MI EAST LANSING — Insecticides have proven effective in killing 45 to 96 percent of the larvae of ash borers, which have been killing the state's ash trees.

The insecticides were tested at several sites this summer, said Deborah McCullough, a forest entomologist at Michigan State University.



Elvis unveiled

An Elvis Presley sculpture, created by sculptor Eric Kaposzta of Houston, is unveiled in front of the Municipal Auditorium in Shreveport, La., a day before the 50th anniversary concert celebrating Presley's first performance at the auditorium in 1954. The bronze sculpture is 7½ feet tall, weighs approximately 1,000 pounds and cost more than \$60,000 to make.

The latest results were presented at the second annual international emerald ash borer science panel meeting, which drew researchers to Romulus earlier this month. They discussed their progress in learning more about the invasive wood-boring beetle.

The ash borer has killed more than 8 million ash trees in Michigan and also has infested trees in Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, Maryland and Ontario.

Treatments can cost \$50 to \$200 per tree per year, depending on the tree and method used.

Court aid for homeless

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A program aimed at helping homeless people resolve outstanding misdemeanors is thriving. Court officials said about 200 cases have passed through the program since it started two years ago. The court sessions help the homeless deal with outstanding arrest warrants and other issues in cases not involving either drunken driving or domestic violence.

Controversial rock

IN GREENWOOD — Some neighbors aren't thrilled with the rock in gun dealer Don Davis' front yard promoting armed protection, but he vows that only a judge can make him move it.

The 8-foot ornamental rock, in front of the home Davis recently built near this Indianapolis suburb, depicts an eagle and the U.S. flag.

The inscription: "It's better to own a gun and not need it than to need a gun and not own it."

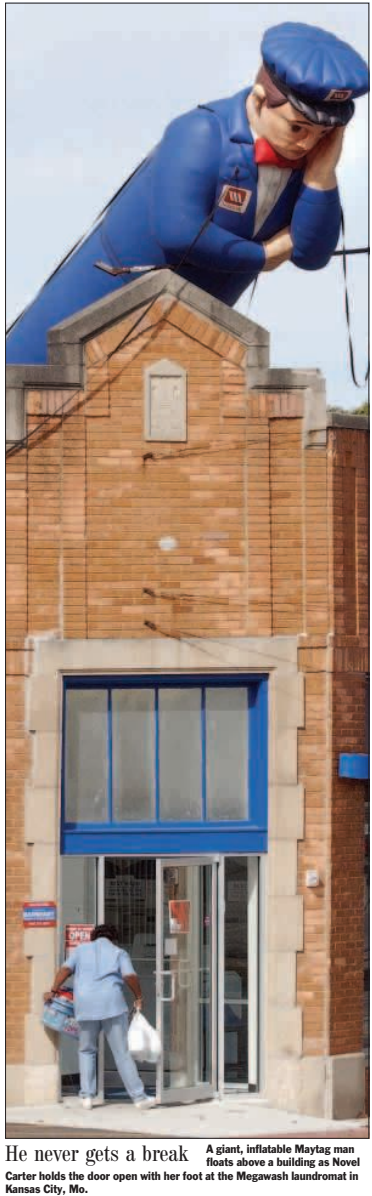
The Highland Park neighborhood association has received many complaints about the rock, which violates the group's covenants, president John Nystrom said. However, Davis, the owner of two Don's Guns shops in Indianapolis, isn't budging.

Doctors skipping town

KY LOUISVILLE — Kentucky has lost about a third of its obstetricians and gynecologists in the past five years because of growing concerns over malpractice insurance, the Kentucky Medical Association says. Statistics show that Kentucky lost 212 of 671 licensed obstetricians/gynecologists from 1999 to 2003. The losses have continued this year, the association said. Seventy counties lack obstetricians; at least two hospitals have closed their maternity wards.

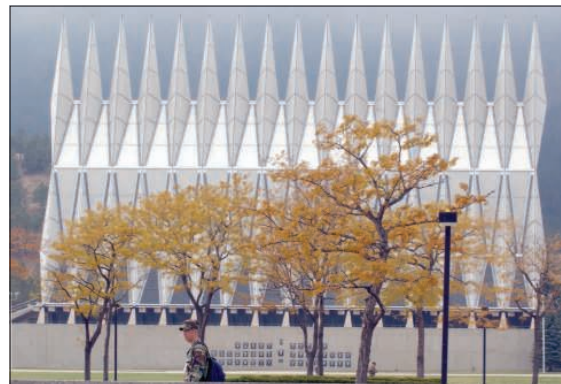
Debate nixed

OR PORTLAND — The League of Women Voters of Lane County canceled the only scheduled debate among the three candidates for Oregon secretary of state. Rep. Betsy Close, a Republican, had disputed rules that allowed candidates to question each other. Then incumbent Bill Bradbury, a Democrat, said he would attend unless Close did. The candidates, including Libertarian Richard Morley, haven't faced one another in a public forum.



He never gets a break

A giant, inflatable Maytag man floats above a building as Novel Carter holds the door open with her foot at the Megawash laundromat in Kansas City, Mo.



Solemn stroll

A lone cadet walks past trees turning their autumnal colors as a fall storm packing high winds and cloudy skies envelopes the chapel on the campus of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.



Rallying around marriage

Participants gather on the Mall in Washington for the Mayday for Marriage rally. The rally, sponsored by the nonprofit organization Mayday for Marriage, was held to protect marriage and preserve its definition under the law, according to event organizers.



Hoping to repeat win

Dora Pearce stirs a witch's brew of chili at the Havelock Chili Festival in Havelock, N.C. Pearce was tending the booth of Jerone's Chili. This year's winner for best chili. This year more than 20 recipes were competing for the honor.



Slippery job

Zack O'Leary, right, carries bags filled with oil-covered wood debris down a Vashon Island, Wash., beach near Neill Point. O'Leary and other contract laborers working for the National Response Corporation, spent the day cleaning one of the most soiled beaches affected by an oil spill.

Bookmaking charge

NH ATKINSON — A former sports bar owner has been charged with running a bookmaking operation from his home, where a former police officer committed suicide four years ago.

Walter Jarosz, 47, faces six counts of illegal gambling and one charge of falsifying physical evidence, according to unsealed indictments.

Jarosz is free on bail. Rockingham County prosecutors said the bets were placed on college or professional sports games. The dates of the bets coincided with "March Madness," the NCAA college basketball tournament.

Bringing back the camp

VA NEW CASTLE — Easter Seals Virginia is attempting to raise more than \$1 million to restore a popular Craig County camp that was devastated by Hurricane Jeanne.

Camp Easter Seal-West has been a favorite of campers with disabilities since it opened in 1957. Each year, Easter Seals brings more than 500 children to the highland meadow.

But after Jeanne, the camp has closed for the year and turned away those who had hoped to spend weeks there this fall.

The 7 inches of rain that fell on Craig as the remnants of Hurricane Jeanne passed over caused \$1.2 million in damage at the camp, yet insurance will cover only \$90,000, Hutchinson said.

Hospital: Pay up

MA BOSTON — A Springfield hospital has been placing liens on the homes of patients to collect on bills, a move that is raising the eyebrows of health care advocates and state officials.

Baystate Medical Center over the past 15 months took 300 patients to court and had liens placed on the homes of 46 patients, the Boston Sunday Globe reported. State officials plan to look into the practice.

"Hospitals should not put liens on poor people's homes," Paul Cote, state commissioner of Health Care Finance and Policy, told the Globe.

Cote oversees the "free care" program, which helps the poor pay medical bills. He said he would look into Baystate to see if it is violating state regulations that protect the poor from unfair collection methods.

Agency on dancer's side

NE OMAHA — The Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission is dedicated to eliminating discrimination involving the elderly, minorities, immigrants and even, it seems, for topless dancers.

The state attorney general's office has filed a lawsuit on behalf of the agency against an Omaha real estate company because it refused to rent an apartment in west Omaha to a stripper.

The Richdale Group had declined to lease an apartment to Charleigh Greenwood after she listed her occupation as a "dancer" at a Council Bluffs, Iowa, lounge.

The NEOC in its lawsuit said such a refusal discriminates against women because labor statistics show women make up 98

percent of dancers in the state and 96 percent of dancers nationwide.

Suspect critical

MI DELTA TOWNSHIP — A man suspected of fatally shooting two women was in critical condition after he took a restaurant waitress hostage and police shot him in the chest.

The suspect took the waitress hostage in a restaurant about 10 miles west of Lansing after police confronted him and an accomplice. She was shot in the leg and her injuries were not life-threatening, police said.

Police said they were investigating.

The two men are suspected of killing Elizabeth Lowe, 24, and Brandy Lowe, 21. The women, who were cousins to each other, were found shot in a Lansing park and later died in a hospital.

Police funding feud

NY BUFFALO — Officials in more than a dozen Buffalo-area towns are fuming over a threat from cash-strapped Erie County to halt police services in rural communities. The county notified 16 towns stretching from Clarence to Wales that it will stop providing Sheriff's Department protection on Jan. 1 unless the towns reimburse the department.

Record-breaking crop

IL CHAMPAIGN — Illinois farmers are expected to harvest more than 2 billion bushels of corn and nearly 483 million bushels of soybeans this fall, new records for both crops, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said. Nationally, the corn crop is expected to reach a record 11.6 billion bushels, 15 percent more than last year, and the soybean harvest is expected to be 3.11 billion bushels, 27 percent more than a year ago.

Money for family

MS GULFPORT, Miss. — The Veterans Affairs Hospital in Biloxi was ordered to pay nearly \$536,000 to the family of a veteran who died five years ago of an aneurysm. The award went to the widow of Thomas Harrison Harrison, 64, died Aug. 7, 1999, less than three months after an X-ray showed he had an aneurysm. He was waiting to have surgery scheduled.

Generous lawyer

MI Attorney General Mike Cox is paying \$340,000 in bonuses this month to 240 members of his legal staff.

The bonuses range from \$150 to \$1,700 for employees who earn up to \$110,000 a year. Cox said the staffers worked many hours of uncompensated overtime. They and other state workers also got a 4 percent pay raise Oct. 1.

College funding crunch

GA ATLANTA — The Board of Regents averted a proposed 10 percent midyear tuition increase for public college students. Under pressure from Gov. Sonny Perdue, the board chose several other ways of absorbing \$64.8 million worth of cuts. Perdue agreed earlier to cut the university system's share of the budget shortfall from \$68 million.

Stories and photos from wire services

Shrek headed for Broadway

"Shrek," the tale of a lovable green ogre, was one of the biggest movies of the last several years. And its sequel was equally successful.

So what is left to conquer? Broadway, says **Sam Mendes**, director of the Academy-Award-winning "American Beauty" and creative producer of the upcoming stage version of "Shrek."

Workshops of the musical will be held sometime in 2005, according to Mendes, whose Scamp Film and Theatre Ltd. will co-produce the musical, along with DreamWorks, which did the movies. No timetable has been set for the Broadway opening.

Jason Moore, who directed the Tony-winning musical "Avenue Q," is set to direct, while the book will be written by David Lindsay-Abaire, author of such offbeat comedies as "Fuddy Meers," "Kimberly Akimbo" and "Wonder of the World." A composer and lyricist are to be named.



Mendes

Depp: I'm just a regular guy

Johnny Depp reckons he's no great movie pinup — he just has a "weird job."

Arriving for the premiere of his latest movie, "Finding Neverland," at London's Leicester Square, Depp played down his movie star image as fans lining the red carpet screamed his name.

"I wouldn't say I'm a heartthrob," he said, as his wife, French singer and actress Vanessa Paradis, looked on. "I just have a very weird job."

Depp has been touted to win his first Oscar for his role as "Peter Pan" creator J.M. Barrie, but the 41-year-old actor dismissed such talk.

"I can't say that occupies my every thought or every moment," he said. "That's not my job to think about that, but if people want to say that, that is really sweet."

Kirk Douglas gets his own neighborhood

Actor Kirk Douglas will never be forgotten in Palm Springs, Calif., where he lived for more than 40 years.

The Palm Springs International Film Society and International Film Festival honored the 87-year-old "Spartacus" star Sunday by naming a six-block stretch near the city's airport after him.

Douglas lived in Palm Springs for more than four decades. His son, Joel, moved to the city two years ago and began a drive to name the street after his father.

The dedication ceremony was attended by Douglas, his wife, and their three surviving sons, including Academy Award-winning actor and producer Michael Douglas.

Also present at the ceremony were U.S. Congressman **Mary Bono**, the wife of the late **Sonny Bono**, who started the film festival as the city's mayor; crooner **Robert Goulet**; **Jack Valenti**, former head of the Motion Picture Association of America; and "Entertainment Tonight's" **Mary Hart**.



Douglas

Undecided? Why not just skip election?

"South Park" co-creator **Matt Stone** has a message for all you undecided voters.

"Stay home," said Stone. "It doesn't matter who you're gonna vote for. If you really don't know who you're gonna vote for, or are undecided, or haven't really thought about it? Just stay home."

Stone and **Tray Parker** have teamed up for the puppet parody "Team America: World Police," which debuted in third place at the box office this weekend with \$12.3 million. A parody of 1960s action movies, the film ridicules both Democrats and Republicans.

In person, Stone has little patience for those on the political fence.

"If you really don't know or you're just going to vote for **George Bush** because he's already in office, or you're gonna vote for **John Kerry** because he's on the cover of **Rolling Stone**, don't do that. That's lame. Just stay home. That's all we ever said," Stone told the San Francisco Chronicle in Sunday's editions.



AP photos

Above: Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry appears on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" Aug. 24.

Left: President Bush, right, appears with Roland Martin on Martin's fishing show for the Outdoor Life Network in April.

TV makes, breaks and fuels political campaigns

Bush, Kerry and a host of others take to the airwaves in an effort to influence the 2004 race

Editor's note: Arts and entertainment have long converged with politics. But this year, something different is in the air — and on movie screens, in bookstores, on the radio, and everywhere else media is consumed. This is the third part of a six-part series.

BY FRAZIER MOORE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Around the time the presidential race began, Janet Jackson came undone on the Super Bowl telecast, giving rise to the term "wardrobe malfunction" and igniting a public outcry heard all the way to Capitol Hill.

Now, as Election Day nears, CBS News is once-deep in hot water for its recent exposé on President Bush's military record that relied on apparently fake documents. Among viewers who long ago branded Dan Rather a liberal boogymen, this was the last straw.

Such events bookend a year where TV wasn't just a medium for political expression, but a political battleground as well.

Viewers, polarized by sights as far afield as the Super Bowl and Baghdad, suspected television of furthering the rift with secret agendas that distorted the truth of what they had seen.

Or didn't see.

What did it mean when CBS News announced recently that it had shelved a "60 Minutes" report on the rationale for war in Iraq because it would be "inappropriate" to air it so close to the election? Was this an act of journalistic responsibility? Or a desperate bid to make peace with the Bush administration? Meanwhile, what did it mean that ratings for Fox News Channel soared — even beating ABC, CBS and NBC — in head-to-head competition at the Republican convention? Easy, said fans of the network: There was a rare outlet for fair and balanced journalism. Easy, said others who regard the network as a mouthpiece for a vast right-wing conspiracy: With Fox, that conspiracy has tightened its grip.

And what did it mean when NBC's "The West Wing" — which dramatizes a progressive Democratic presidency — announced that Alan Alda would join the show as a Republican senator with aspirations for the White House? Was this addition just a way to rejuvenate the ratings of a series past its prime? Or a sop to conservative viewers who always thought "The West Wing" has a liberal tilt? As questions like these danced in the viewer's head, a grating tune still resonated from the Super Bowl.

First, Justin Timberlake had exposed Janet Jackson's right breast to 89 million viewers. Then that audience, along with the rest of America, was exposed to another unsimply display: lots of finger-pointing, as everyone tried to do the blame for what was labeled both a regrettable accident and a clear sign of TV's moral decay.

Then, last month, CBS was fined \$550,000 by the Federal Communications Commission for the Super Bowl fiasco.

"As countless families gathered around the television to watch one of our nation's most celebrated events, they were rudely greeted with a halftime show stunt more fitting of a burlesque show," huffed commission Chairman Michael Powell, who at the same time had been fighting for deregulation measures that would let media giants become bigger and less responsive to the public than ever before.

The presidential campaign's version of the Super Bowl kicked off Sept. 30 with the first of three televised debates between Bush and his Democratic rival, Sen. John Kerry.

But supplementing those unique joint appearances, Bush and Kerry were both popping up just about anywhere that promised a cordial reception.

Kerry tried to lighten things up on CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman" and Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart." Bush went stunt more fitting of the Outdoor Life Network.

In separate sessions, Dr. Phil and his wife, Robin, talked child-spanking with fellow parents the First Couple, then with Kerry and his wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry.

The candidates also popped up in dueling campaign commercials.

And even more contentiously, in commercials made by supporters on the candidates' behalf. For weeks, a group called Swift Boat Veterans for Truth blasted Kerry as a coward. Other veterans fired back in ads defending Kerry's service.

If the level of combativeness reached laughable heights, it wasn't lost on TV's comedians.

"Tonight" show viewers were reminded that Bush was pledging "to destroy terror networks wherever they operate." Then host Jay Leno added, "By 'terror network,' it's not clear if he meant al-Qaida or CBS."

And on "The Daily Show" parody newscast, fake anchorman Jon Stewart was hailed by many fans as not just a source of chuckles, but a refuge for political insight.

"We turn our attention," he intoned one night from behind his anchor desk, "to the biggest swing state in this year's presidential election." He paused meaningfully. "Iraq. Think of it as Ohio... a bloody, intractable Ohio."



Horoscope

Venus is rather terse with Pluto, causing us to feel on edge about relationships, especially the ones that blur into the area of personal finance. Thoughts center around the idea of reciprocity. If someone in your life seems to always be the taker, now is the time when you really notice. Do consider the many ways in which one might give, though.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 20). You make a stand this year, and the world is different because of your contribution. Meaningful exchanges this month and next connect you with a romance that's lasting. If already prepared, you'll be traveling together through the holidays and discover a new interest that blossoms into a big moneymaker. Love signs are Virgo and Pisces.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life's little bumps give you a chance to duck out and do a personal inventory — something you can accomplish in a quiet 15 minutes or take the whole day to do. A relationship that has gotten one-sided will even out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whatever you were procrastinating can wait no longer. Getting the itch stuff out of the way (and in the process finding out that it wasn't so bad) is the best motivator for doing the rest. You'll be able to flirt this afternoon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can spot a fake a mile away. Use your laser-sharp intuition about people to put yourself in fine company. Begin and end your meetings and appointments on time, and stick to the agenda. Really mean what you are saying.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your influence is strong, and your opinion means more than you know. Encourage a loved one who is pursuing a cherished dream. Later, you're the one this person will thank in the acceptance speech.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Folks aren't responding in the manner you think they should. As much as you love your friends, you can also find

them frustrating! Change your approach. Don't accept interactions that are less than favorable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Make a gracious gesture at work, and team spirit gets everyone through a rather chaotic morning. If someone could bottle and sell your ability to provide relief, the world would be a much more productive place!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A little politeness goes a long way toward giving you a reputation as someone solid and kind. The truly over-the-top generosity comes into play when you decide not to notice whether anybody returns the favor. That's real class.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have many tasks to do, and you haven't the time and resources to do them equally well, either. Inevitably, something will be skipped. So prioritize carefully, and then, let it go. Tonight, you're distracted by dreams of love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relationships require you to be the leader, something you're comfortable with but don't always prefer. Mainly, being the leader requires you to make decisions exactly when avoiding a decision would be much easier.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your passion will lead you to do what less passionate people wouldn't dream of — take risks! Approach someone who can help your odds. If you're going to take a risk, why not take one in which the odds are in your favor?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your nutrition is out of whack — likely not enough variety, water-rich foods or greens. Stop by the store to remedy this instead of going for yet another quick-stop meal. Note: Your social life requires variety just like your diet.

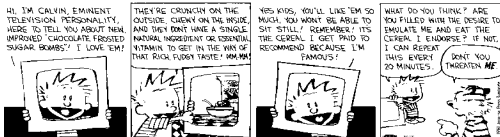
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You want to improve yourself, become smarter through reading, and create meaningful experiences with loved ones. You're the only one who can give these tasks more urgency! Make a stronger effort to be proactive.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



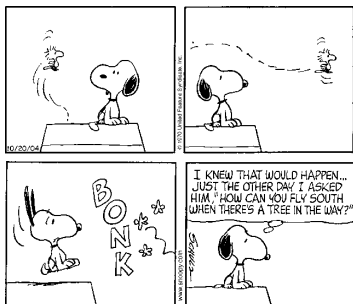
Red Rover



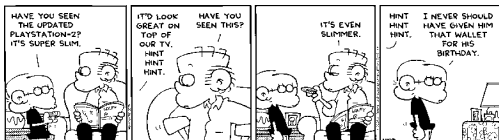
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



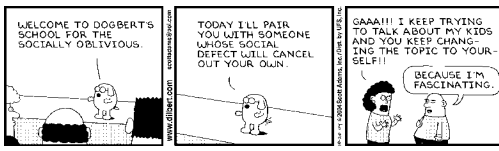
Spider Man



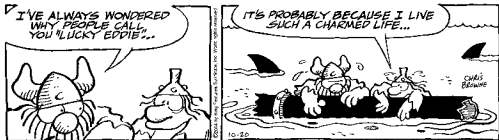
Blondie



Dilbert



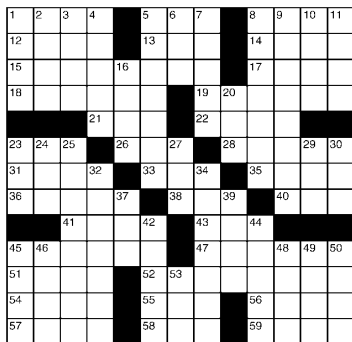
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



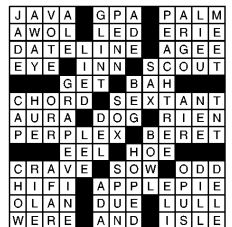
Across

- 1 Tra trailer
- 5 West of Hollywood
- 8 Felix Unger-esque
- 12 Isolators' writings
- 13 Immigrants' study course (Abbr.)
- 14 Montreal player
- 15 Indian metropolis
- 17 "Dead Poets Society" director
- 18 Reddish blue
- 19 Fish-eating hawk
- 21 Soundcloud
- 22 Bender
- 23 eBay offer
- 26 Accomplished
- 28 Concise
- 31 Valhalla VIP
- 33 Prompt
- 35 Heavy reading
- 36 Obstinate ones
- 38 Freddy's street
- 40 Gist
- 41 Distant
- 43 Derek and Piddley
- 45 Diamond pattern
- 47 Canada's capital
- 51 Poi base
- 52 Connecticut city
- 54 Finished
- 55 One more than 27-Down
- 56 Civil wrong
- 57 Cheat at hide-and-seek
- 58 Young fellow

Down

- 1 Ms. Anderson
- 2 Mideastern gulf
- 3 Lascivious
- 4 Echo sounder acronym
- 5 Tunes
- 6 Blind shade
- 7 "Silas Marner" author
- 8 Jazz festival
- 9 Force
- 10 "... baked in —"
- 11 Conservative
- 16 "Zounds!"
- 20 Bowl
- 23 Evening-gown accessory
- 24 Eggs' counterparts
- 25 Be of two minds
- 27 Two (Ital.)
- 29 Ostrich's kin
- 30 Calendar abbr.
- 32 Gotham
- 34 Nudged, in a way
- 37 Bando of baseball
- 39 Sweater destroyer
- 42 Treisand
- 43 title role
- 44 Put into words
- 45 On
- 46 Wild dance party
- 48 Acknowledge
- 49 "... off to see the ..."
- 50 Picnic hamper
- 53 Mount st

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-20

CRYPTOQUIP

C G A H G R G W M E G Y W Y H T
H B V O N E C S K W A G V W R S
K A S R H T Y Y O V V W Y A S

"MKHTSR EC H BACWSANW."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A KANGAROO IS FINDING IT HARD TO JUMP, SHOULD HE JUST TAKE SOME LEAPING PILLS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T



An unidentified man waits for a ball during the Masters Tennis Tournament in Madrid on Monday. Models have replaced the traditional ball boys for the event.

Nadal needs one hour to win opener in Madrid

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Spanish youngster Rafael Nadal needed only an hour to beat Italy's Davide Sanguinetti 6-2, 6-1 on Tuesday and advance to the second round of the Madrid Masters.

Making up for his first-round exit last year, the 18-year-old Nadal beat Sanguinetti, a semifinalist in Vienna last week, to set up a second-round match against 14th seeded American Vincent Spadea.

"Against Spadea, I'll certainly have to do better than I did today," said Nadal, who was the star of the Spanish side that beat France last month to reach the final of the Davis Cup against the United States in December.

"I hope to play 50 percent better each day," Nadal said. "Clearly, winning the first match gives me a lot of confidence."

Tommy Haas of Germany and Taylor Dent of the United States also advanced to the second round of the \$3 million event.

Haas, a semifinalist in the CA Trophy last week, beat Xavier Malisse of Belgium 6-4, 6-1 and Dent defeated Mikhail Youzhny of Russia 6-3, 6-2.

They were joined in the second round by Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia, a 6-4, 6-4 winner over Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic, and Fernando Verdasco of Spain, who breezed past Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 6-1, 6-2.

Second-seeded Andre Agassi, the 2002 champion, was scheduled to play Max Mirnyi of Belarus in a second-round match later Tuesday.

Withdrawals by Roger Federer, Andy Roddick and Lleyton Hewitt have left Tim Henman of Britain as the top seed in the tournament, followed by Agassi and Russia's Marat Safin.

Spain's Albert Costa faces Wednesday in the second round when-

Earnhardt's appeal of penalty is denied

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. lost his appeal of a 25-point penalty and \$10,000 fine for using a vulgar word during a post-race TV interview.

Instead of leading the Nextel Cup standings on Monday by a point with five races to go, Earnhardt trails leader Kurt Busch by 24 points.

"NASCAR had issued repeated warnings to contestants regarding the use of inappropriate language during live event broadcasts," the National Stock Car Racing Commission said Monday. "The infraction occurred on-air at the racetrack during the live broadcast of a NASCAR event, not in a casual private conversation or off-site activity."

NASCAR punished Earnhardt

on Oct. 5, two days after he won a race at Talladega and was interviewed by NBC.

In its denial of the appeal, the three-member panel called Earnhardt an "important ambassador of the sport and a role model."

There was no immediate response from Earnhardt or his team. They have the option of making a final appeal to commissioner Charles D. Strang.

Meanwhile, the Parents Television Council, an advocacy group to protect children against sex, violence and profanity in entertainment, filed an indecency complaint against NBC with the Federal Communications Commission. It wants the FCC to levy a fine against every NBC affiliate that aired the interview.

Attempts to reach someone at NBC Sports were not immediately successful.



Dale Earnhardt Jr., right, talking with fellow driver Matt Kenseth, lost his appeal of a 25-point penalty assessed by NASCAR for using a vulgar word during a post-race interview at Talladega Motor Speedway. The penalty cost Earnhardt the lead in the Nextel Cup championship chase.

Harrison suspended four years for doping

The Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Two-time Olympic gold medalist Alvin Harrison accepted a four-year suspension from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency on Tuesday for drug violations uncovered in the BALCO case.

The 30-year-old sprinter, who won gold medals as part of U.S. relay teams in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics, was charged with violations of anti-doping rules based in part on evidence presented in the U.S. Senate in May, then turned over to USAID.

It's a bittersweet day for USAID chief executive officer Terry Madden said.

"It's good that another athlete in the BALCO drug conspiracy has been brought to justice. It's a sad day because we now know a conspiracy is out there. Athletes have admitted to it and people are using prohibited substances."

The evidence did not include a positive drug test, but did include information gathered during the federal probe of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

Harrison was the second athlete to admit using illegal substances despite not testing positive. Sprinter Kelvin White, who forfeited two world titles, earlier accepted a two-year suspension.

Another 10 athletes have received sanctions for testing positive for THF or metformin, two of the drugs linked to BALCO. Among them is Harrison's twin brother, Calvin, who received a two-year suspension.

Sorenstam is WSF's Sportswoman pick

NEW YORK — The accolades, like her putts, just keep rolling in for Annika Sorenstam. Sorenstam, winner of six tournaments on the LPGA Tour because she was selected Sportswoman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation at the Waldorf Astoria.

Olympic beach volleyball gold medalists Misty May and Kerri Walsh were honored in the same category.

Sorenstam, 34, is fresh off a victory in the Samsung World Championship on Sunday. She chipped in a 40-footer from the fringe for an eagle 3 on No. 15 en route to her 54th win.

"It's a great honor because the Foundation is striving every day to make more opportunities for girls and women available," she said in a statement.

The Women's Sports Foundation, founded



Annika Sorenstam was voted Sportswoman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation.

by Billie Jean King, is marking its 30th anniversary. The awards dinner raises more than \$1 million annually for education and grant programs for girls and women in sports.

Forty Athens Olympians met with President Bush at the White House before attending the dinner.

Philippines tells six players to leave

MANILA, Philippines — Six professional basketball players have been told to leave the Philippines voluntarily or face deportation after the government accused them of faking their citizenship to play in the country's premier league.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales ordered deportation proceedings initiated against four Americans, a Tongan and an Australian after

a Senate inquiry last year concluded they used fake birth certificates purportedly showing their parents were natural-born Filipinos, to claim their Filipino papers.

"The Senate has conducted an exhaustive investigation and they have found no records to back the claim of these players that they are Filipino citizens," Gonzales told reporters. The justice department said the orders were to be served to the players Tuesday.

"Since we have already determined that they are undocumented aliens, we could order them detained pending the conclusion of the deportation proceedings against them," Gonzales said. "If they don't want to experience this, they have the option of leaving the country voluntarily."

He also directed police investigators to look into possible perjury and falsification charges against team owners, managers, talent scouts and civil registrars who allegedly issued spurious documents to the players.

The players include Darvon Harp, Jon Ordonio and Mick Pennisi of Red Bull Barako, Rudy Hatfield of Coca-Cola and Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra. All are starters.

Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text was also ordered deported, but before that, Gonzales told the attorney general to lift a preliminary injunction the player had secured from a Manila court in a bid to prevent his deportation.

Philippine Basketball Association Commissioner Noli Eala said the players can file a court appeal but can no longer play.

Sabres anticipate layoffs

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Sabres will lay off about 25 employees by the end of November if there is no resolution to the month-old NHL labor dispute.

Layoff notices were issued last Friday, and the team confirmed the news in a statement it released this week, saying the decision was made "in response to the current uncertainty."

The Sabres did not identify which employees or departments were affected. The layoffs will leave the team with about half of its normal 150 full-time staff. Anticipating a potential dispute, the Sabres had already cut dozens of jobs through attrition since last spring.

The NHL regular season, which was scheduled to start last week, has been disrupted since the league locked out its players on Sept. 15 following the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement.

New BCS formula triggers old arguments

BY CHRIS DUFRESNE
Los Angeles Times

Initial reaction to Monday's first release of the Bowl Championship Series standings: You call that progress?

The rankings system that for six years has determined college football's national championship game participants has been modified and simplified to prevent a repeat of last season's disaster in which Southern Cal finished No. 1 in both human polls but No. 3 in the final BCS standings.

Yet, as Monday's release indicates, the C in BCS could still end up standing for "controversy." USC opened as undisputed first-week BCS king with No. 1 rankings in both polls and the system's computer component, but there was confusion just below as Miami (Fla.) debated ahead of Oklahoma in the important second position.

In the new formula, a calculation that gives equal weight to the two human polls and the computers, USC opened at a BCS average of 99.12.

Miami was second at 91.87, followed by Oklahoma at 91.61.

Oklahoma's place was a sur-

Analysis

prise because it is No. 2 in both human polls, whereas Miami is fourth in The Associated Press poll and third in the ESPN/USA TODAY coaches' poll.

The top two schools in the final BCS standings will play for the BCS national title in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4.

BCS coordinator Kevin Weberg said it was too early to draw conclusions about the new system.

"I think it's important that there not be an overreaction to this first poll," he said.

Yet, it's fair to say a mini-controversy was the last thing Weberg and other BCS commissioners wanted in the first week.

"I suppose there's a little bit of irony there," Weberg said.

Monday's first BCS posting was only the first snapshot of a long season and Weberg said the Miami-Oklahoma situation would work itself out.

Despite its No. 2 ranking in both polls, Oklahoma was dragged into the third BCS spot

because of its No. 5 ranking in the computer component.

Weberg said several computers factored in a school's road record and that Oklahoma had played only one road game this year, last week at Kansas State.

Weberg said that Oklahoma's No. 5 computer ranking might be a one-week anomaly.

"I think that it's very unlikely that that would hold up through the balance of the season," he said.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said he was not yet concerned about any potential controversy.

"It really makes no difference where anyone is ranked today," Stoops said in a statement released by the school. "There is too much of this season left to play for anyone to get too worked up about this now. The bottom line is that you have to get out there and win your games."

Tweaks in the BCS this year were intended to make sure a school ranked first in both polls could not finish third in the BCS standings.

Yet, the new formula may not protect a team that is second in both polls, especially if there is little distinction separating the sec-

Bowl Championship Series standings

Oct. 18, 2004											
	Rk	AP	ESPNU	ESPNU	Computer	BCS	AP	ESPNU	ESPNU	Computer	BCS
1. Southern Cal	1	1610	591	1	1514	99.1	99	99.0	99.1	99	99.0
2. Miami	2	891	3	2380	95.2	91.87	96	96.0	91.87	96	91.87
3. Oklahoma	2	1567	964	2	1470	96.4	5	82.0	96.4	5	82.0
4. Auburn	3	1040	660	3	1040	66.0	6	81.0	66.0	6	81.0
5. Florida St.	5	350	302	5	1234	89.5	6	81.0	89.5	6	81.0
6. Wisconsin	6	1240	763	6	1088	71.3	7	70.0	72.5	7	70.0
7. Utah	9	1077	660	10	1015	66.6	4	85	66.6	4	85
8. California	7	1215	748	8	1071	70.2	8	57.0	73.7	8	57.0
9. Tennessee	11	1	989	13	812	33.4	7	72.0	63.1	7	72.0
10. Georgia	10	1040	660	6	1124	73.7	14	44.0	63.0	14	44.0
11. Michigan	8	918	1083	9	1025	67.3	13	47.0	63.0	13	47.0
12. Purdue	12	957	589	12	832	54.6	14	44.0	54.6	14	44.0
13. Illinois	14	1	983	11	943	41.6	15	39.0	50.4	15	39.0
14. Boise St.	16	467	287	16	557	36.5	10	64.0	43.0	10	64.0
15. Virginia	14	739	454	15	665	34.6	13	34.0	40.1	13	34.0

Explanation

Team percentages are derived by dividing a team's actual voting points by a maximum of 163 possible points in the AP poll and 125 possible points in the USA Today ESPN coaches' poll. Six computer rankings calculated in inverse points order (25 for No. 1, 24 for No. 2, etc.) are used to determine the overall computer component. The best and worst ranking for each team is dropped, and the remaining four are added and divided by 100 (the maximum possible points) to produce a Computer Rankings Percentage. Each computer ranking accounts for schedule strength of the formula. The BCS average is calculated by averaging the percent totals of the three polls.

and third teams, at which point the computers may play a deciding role.

"Even though two-thirds of the formula is driven by the human polls, we're counting actual wins here and if there is a close margin, the computer polls are going to have some significant influence," Weberg said.

In one of the more interesting twists, Utah made its BCS debut at No. 7, the highest

first-week ranking by a non-BCS school.

Utah, which trails No. 6 Wisconsin by a silver — 7251 to 7255 — is trying to become the first non-BCS school to qualify for a major bowl game.

Utah earns an automatic berth if it finishes sixth or better in the final BCS standings and can be considered for one of two at-large berths if it finishes in the top 12.



Utah's remaining games are against UNLV, San Diego State, Colorado St., Wyoming and BYU.

Utes hushed about their lofty standing

BY DOUG ALDEN
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — As happy as Utah coach Urban Meyer was to hear his team was ranked seventh in the first Bowl Championship Series standings, he didn't want to talk about it much.

And he definitely didn't want to hear about it from players.

"If I hear it, I'll squeal any discussion about that," Meyer said Monday.

Meyer has been critical of the BCS in the past, mostly because it doesn't include Utah's Mountain West Conference among the six leagues that are guaranteed a spot in the four elite bowl games.

A team like Utah has to win an at-large berth to play in the Orange, Sugar, Fiesta or Rose bowls, and no team from a mid-major

conference has done that since the BCS was adopted in 1998. To get in, the Utes most likely need to go unbeaten and see where the complicated combination of the AP and coaches polls and computer rankings have them at the end of the season.

"Those rankings don't mean anything unless we do win out and that's a long way off right now," Utah quarterback Alex Smith said.

"It's different when a computer is telling you where you're ranked. It's not polls. It's not people. It's not opinions. It's some computer spitting it out, so who knows?"

The top six teams in the BCS standings are guaranteed a bowl bid and only the top 12 are eligible to play in one of the big games.

The biggest test season is the Orange Bowl, which will feature the No. 1 vs. No. 2 teams in the standings.

Utah's seventh-place start in the BCS standings is the best ever by a mid-major conference team.

The Utes remained unbeaten with a 46-16 win over North Carolina on Saturday, improving to 3-0 against teams from BCS leagues this season. The Utes also have victories over Texas A&M, ranked No. 16 in the BCS standings, and Arizona.

Utah hosts UNLV on Saturday and finishes the season against San Diego State, Colorado State, Wyoming and rival Brigham Young.

Winning out would give the Utes their best season in school history, but one loss would quickly end any mention about the BCS.

"I actually hope this team realizes a little bit about what our potential could be," Smith said. "But I hope they just don't forget how we got here and that was preparing better than the team we played each week."

Texas sticking with Young as starting QB

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas football coach Mack Brown is sticking with Vince Young as the team's starting quarterback, despite two consecutive poor passing games.

Brown had suggested after the Longhorns' 28-20 victory over Missouri that he'd consider replacing Young with Chance Mock. But he removed that option during his weekly news conference Monday.

"Vince will start," Brown said. Eighth-ranked Texas plays at Texas Tech on Saturday.

The coach said he had wanted to see how Young was feeling after he was knocked out of the game in the second quarter with a bruised sternum. Although Young was cleared to return in the third

quarter against Missouri, Brown stuck with Mock, who played the entire second half.

Brown said Young was fine. The two quarterbacks threw for 58 yards in an offense that ranks 103rd nationally in passing. The Longhorns have been able to compensate for that with a rushing attack that ranks No. 2 and averages 293.5 yards per game behind tailback Cedric Benson.

Part of the reason for sticking with Young is his ability to run.

"He is such a valuable part of our running game," Brown said. "A big part of Cedric's running success, to me, comes from (defenses) having to be aware of the

ability to make the explosive plays with Vince."

Vols starting safety suspended for firing gun near campus

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee starting safety Brandon Johnson was suspended indefinitely because he fired a gun into the air near campus.

Johnson, a junior, was arrested Monday and charged with felony reckless endangerment after shooting the gun outside the apartment of tailback Cedric Benson.

Junior defensive back Chris Heath, who was in school on a medical scholarship but not playing, was charged with misdemeanor unlawful carrying of a firearm. Heath was permanently dismissed from the team.

No. 11 Tennessee hosts Alabama on Saturday

Washington St. starting QB out for the season

PULLMAN, Wash. — Washington State quarterback Josh Swigger broke a bone in his foot and will need season-ending surgery, school athletic department spokesman Rod Commons said Monday.

Swigger's backup is freshman Alex Brink.

Rutgers player seriously hurt in car wreck

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Three Rutgers football players were injured, one seriously, in a multi-vehicle accident caused by a man accused of drunken driving. Safety Dondre L. Asberry, 20,



Washington State QB Josh Swigger had 13 TD passes and seven interceptions this season.

of Miami, suffered a spine fracture and head injuries in the accident Saturday night, police said.

The junior remained in critical condition Monday at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, hospital spokeswoman Kristen Walsh said.

Williams to meet with NFL on return

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Retired running back Ricky Williams is scheduled to meet Thursday with the NFL to seek permission to immediately rejoin the Miami Dolphins, despite his multiple violations of the league's substance-abuse program.

William David Cornwell, an attorney representing Williams, and the NFL Players Association also will attend the meeting in California.

"We are anxious to present the case for permitting Ricky to rejoin the Miami Dolphins this year and to clarify his status under the league's substance-abuse program," Cornwell said in a statement Monday.

In July, Williams said he learned shortly before retiring that he had failed a drug test for marijuana — his third violation in the program since 2002.

Because of the violations and Williams' subsequent retirement, the Dolphins say their understanding is that he is suspended for the entire season. The NFL has declined to comment.

If Williams were to play this year, it would likely be with Miami, because the league trade deadline is Tuesday.

The Dolphins haven't won a game since the 2002 NFL rushing champion retired. At 0-6, they're the league's lone winless team and off to the worst start in their 39-year history.

Speculation regarding coach Dave Wannstedt's future has shifted from whether he'll be fired to when — and who will depart with him.

A housecleaning that would include general manager Rick Spielman and much of the coaching staff becomes more likely with each defeat.

Cornwell declined to address Williams' motivation for coming out of retirement.

"It is not appropriate to discuss our rationale for rejoining the Dolphins until after the NFL and NFLPA hear from us directly," Cornwell said.

Contributing to the change of heart was an arbitration ruling Sept. 24 that Williams must repay more than \$8.6 million to the Dolphins for breaching his contract. He has done without his \$3.5 million salary while traveling in Australia and Asia.

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Henry will remain Bills starting RB

The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Once healthy, running back Travis Henry will remain his job as the Buffalo Bills' starter, even after Willis McGahee's strong debut on Sunday.

"Travis will be the starter and Willis will get more playing time as we go," coach Mike Mularczyk said on Monday. "I think due to injury, I don't think that's any case to make a change right now. [Henry] has been productive."

Mularczyk's comments come a day after McGahee's 111-yard NFL start and helped the Bills (1-4) win their first game of the season, a 20-13 victory against Miami.

Henry is nursing a sprained left foot. His status for this Sunday's game at Baltimore is unclear. The Bills will begin to determine Henry's status when the team returns for practice on Wednesday.

McGahee, who missed all of his rookie season recovering from reconstructive surgery on his left knee, finished with 111 yards rushing and 31 yards receiving.

Mularczyk's announcement regarding Henry's status shouldn't come as much of a surprise to McGahee, who knew his role as starter was only temporary.

"I'm still not the starter. Travis Henry is the starter," McGahee said after the game. "He was out this week and I'm pretty sure he'll be back. And I'm looking forward to playing with him."

Quinn probable starter for Bears

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Jonathan Quinn probably will keep his job as the Chicago Bears' starting quarterback, but rookie Craig Krenzel will get more practice this week.

Quinn struggled for a second straight start Sunday, completing 10 of 22 passes for 65 yards in a 13-10 loss to the Washington Redskins and was booed by fans at Soldier Field.

The Bears play at Tampa Bay on Sunday. Quinn begins the week as the team's No. 1 QB — but he could be uneaten if Krenzel looks better.

"Right now Jonathan is our starter. We'll go through the week

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)
JETS WR Santana Moss (hamstring), G Pete Kendall (toe) and G Brandon Moore (hamstring) are all probable.

and at the end of the week see where we are," coach Lovie Smith said Monday. "We'll decide a little later on who is going to do what."

Quinn will get 60 percent of the snaps with the first-team offense, and Krenzel's repetitions will be increased to 40 percent.

Hobbled Leftwich expected to practice, play

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville quarterback Byron Leftwich was in a walking boot Monday, but coach Jack Del Rio expected him to practice this week.

Leftwich sprained his right ankle late in Sunday's win against Kansas City. He stayed in the game and led the Jaguars on a 67-yard scoring drive in the closing minutes that gave them a 22-16 victory.

The second-year starter finished 24-for-36 for 298 yards with three touchdowns — two passing and one rushing.

He left the stadium on crutches with his ankle heavily wrapped. He also bruised his left shoulder on the second drive of the game, but Del Rio said that injury wouldn't affect him this week.

Seattle's Wistrom out 4-6 weeks

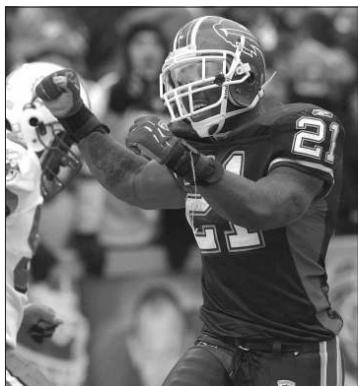
KIRKLAND, Wash. — Seattle Seahawks defensive end Grant Wistrom will be out 4 to 6 weeks with a small fracture in his left knee.

Seahawks doctors initially believed Wistrom had only hyperextended his left knee.

"It was a little bit more than I heard right after the game," coach Mike Holmgren said. "He has a little crack. The slight fracture has to heal first of all."

Wistrom will most likely miss Seattle's visit to St. Louis on Nov. 14, a game he was looking forward to playing. Wistrom spent his first six NFL seasons with the Browns before signing with the Seahawks in the offseason.

The loss of Wistrom is a major blow to Seattle's defense, which is allowing only 15.2 points per



Despite Willis McGahee's 111 yards rushing in his first NFL start, Travis Henry will start for the Buffalo Bills when he is healthy.

game and is already missing starting linebacker Chad Brown, who broke his left leg in training camp.

"It's a hit," Holmgren said. "There's no question about it. He was our number one acquisition in the offseason. He brings a lot of energy and started the season well for us."

Holmgren also said Monday that wide receiver Bobby Engram sprained his left ankle and might miss Sunday's game at Arizona.

Carswell suspended one game

DENVER — Denver Broncos tight end Dwayne Carswell was suspended for one game Monday for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy, the result of pleading guilty to battery after a fight with his girlfriend last year.

Carswell was placed on probation for one year for the guilty plea. He will be suspended without pay for next Monday's game at Cincinnati and will be docked an additional week's salary.

The 11-year veteran was arrested last July in Atlanta and originally charged with simple bat-

tery, domestic violence and obstruction of an officer. A court complaint said he picked up his girlfriend by the neck outside a bar. The complaint also said the woman was bitten on the arm.

Falcons' Hall expects to play

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Atlanta Falcons cornerback DeAngelo Hall, the No. 8 overall draft pick, expects to play his first NFL game Sunday after recovering from a small fracture in his left hip.

Hall was injured in an Aug. 28 preseason game against Cincinnati after batting down a pass. He already had won the starting job on the left side.

At first, the Falcons (5-1) feared Hall would be out for as long as 10 weeks, which would have kept him out for the first eight regular-season games. But the recovery went much smoother than expected.

"I feel like I've been 100 percent for the last 2½ weeks," Hall said Monday, still sweating from a workout. "I really haven't felt anything [in the hip] for the last month. But they wanted to take it nice and slow."

Delhomme takes blame for Panthers' 1-4 record

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — When the finger-pointing begins in Carolina, quarterback Jake Delhomme wants it to be in his direction. Delhomme is shouldering the blame for the Panthers' 1-4 record, particularly after throwing three interceptions in Sunday's 30-8 loss to Philadelphia.

"We're not getting it done, especially offensively, and it has to fall on the quarterback," he said. "I just felt extremely good about what we were going to do out here, but it's just not happening."

"We're not carrying it over. I'm one that's not carrying it over. It's hard for me to look

around and see who else might not be, when certainly I'm not holding up close to my end of the bargain."

Delhomme leads the NFL with nine interceptions.

Carolina coach John Fox refused to place the blame on his quarterback Monday.

"Each individual play, people have things they have to execute," Fox said. "I couldn't begin to put it all on him. That's the kind of guy he is [to take the blame]."

"But I know from my standpoint, I don't feel it's all him."

Through five games this season, Delhomme is 99-for-168 for 1,150 yards and seven touchdowns.

A year ago he was 65-for-113 for 691 yards, five touchdowns and five interceptions — and the Panthers were 5-0.

But part of Carolina's offensive problems start with the overhauled offensive line, where only two players from last season are back. The replacements have not been stellar, and Delhomme is constantly getting knocked down or rushing throws from a quickly collapsing pocket.

Delhomme would never use the line as an excuse, and he used to blame his play Sunday on a vicious hit he received from Jevon Kearse in the second quarter. Reynolds showed the tackle was helmet-to-helmet, although the officials didn't call it. Delhomme appeared woozy after the play, and needed a timeout to collect himself.

Defense contributes in Rams win

By BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Big plays are what the St. Louis Rams are all about.

Most of the time, those game-turning plays come on offense. On Monday night, the Rams got them from the defense, too, in a 28-21 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Torry Holt caught two long touchdown passes, and Adam Archuleta returned a fumble 93 yards for a score — one of four takeaways for St. Louis.

"That's something we wanted to establish as a defense," Archuleta said. "We hadn't been getting turnovers through the preseason and the first few games."

St. Louis came into the game with only two takeaways.

One week after a sensational late comeback in a victory over Seattle, the Rams (4-2) moved into sole possession of first place in the NFC West, a half-game in front of the Seahawks.

"It's very big," Archuleta said of moving in front of Seattle. "We had a couple tough losses early in the year where we were kind of struggling to get that momentum."

The Bucs (1-5) got the St. Louis 15 on the final drive, but Aeneas Williams forced Tim Brown's fumble, and Jerametrius Butler recovered.

Holt beat double coverage to haul in a 36-yard pass from Marc Bulger with 10:46 remaining for the winning touchdown. The All-Pro receiver had a 52-yard TD on the first series and finished with six catches for 124 yards.

"We put it together tonight for some big plays," Holt said. "I wish we could wind it back to '99 and make it look easy. But now it's a challenge to us as football players and as a team to get those big plays."

Marshall Faulk had his 100th career rushing touchdown, a 1-yarder in the second quarter that it 14-10.

Archuleta made his steal midway through the third quarter, one play after Ian Gold's 31-yard interception return put the Bucs at the St. Louis 15. Michael Pittman ran left to the end zone where he was stripped by the Rams' defense, who snatched untouched down the left sideline.

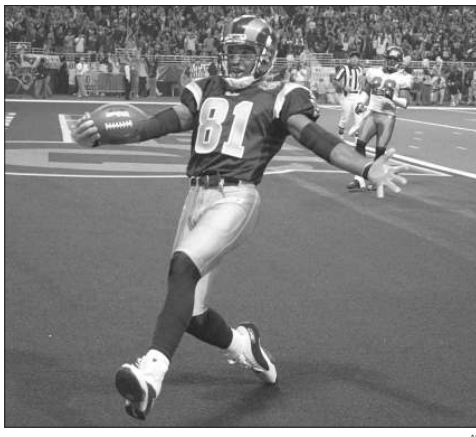
Bucs coach Jon Gruden challenged the play to no avail.

"I think everybody in America could see he was down," Gruden said of Pittman.

"It's very frustrating," Pittman said. "I had one of the biggest turnovers, and I feel bad about it. I feel like I let my teammates down."

"Turnovers killed us."

A fumble then helped the Bucs. Greg Spires' second sack of the game shook Bulger,



Torry Holt celebrates the first of his two touchdown catches, this one on the Rams' first drive. Holt scored the game-winner in the fourth quarter as St. Louis beat Tampa Bay on Monday night.

who lost the ball at his 20. Anthony McFarland recovered and it led to Will Heller's 1-yard TD catch, tying it 21-21 heading into the fourth quarter.

Brian Griese was sharp and Michael Clayton was sensational on Tampa Bay's first two touchdowns drives. Griese completed his first nine passes, including throws of 19 and 9 yards to the rookie on the first scoring drive, which concluded with Mike Altstetter's 1-yard power run. The march was set up by Torrie Cox's 59-yard kickoff return.

Early in the second quarter, Clayton beat DeJuan Groce deep for 44 yards, setting up a third-down 5-yard toss to Pittman for a 14-7 lead.

St. Louis' sloppiness was costly when an illegal block penalty negated Shaun McDonald's 82-yard punt return late in the first period. But then the Bucs made a more critical mistake.

On third down from their 7, John Wade's snap never made it to Griese, even though the quarterback was set up behind center, not in

the shotgun. Leonard Little dove on the ball for St. Louis at the 5.

It took the Rams four running plays to get into the end zone, with Faulk stretching the ball over the goal line for No. 100, the sixth player to reach that mark.

St. Louis opened the scoring on Bulger's 52-yarder to Holt just 2:20 into the game.

By halftime, Griese was 14-for-19 for 153 yards passing, but the score was 14-14. Tampa's Martin Gramatica missed field goals of 35 and 48 yards, both wide left, the second miss caused partly by a poor snap.

Jeff Wilkins, who sprained his left ankle earlier, was way short on a 56-yard attempt on the final play of the half for the Rams. He also missed wide right from 44 yards with 1:09 remaining in the game.

Griese finished 27-for-40 for 286 yards and Clayton had eight receptions for 142 yards.

"Against a team like this, you can't turn the ball over like that," Griese said. "It felt like we did some good things offensively. Turnovers hurt us."

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	5	0	1	1.000	135	83
N.Y. Jets	5	0	1	1.000	120	89
Buffalo	1	4	0	.200	71	86
N.Y. Giants	0	6	0	.000	55	107
South						
Indianapolis	4	1	0	.800	159	106
Jacksonville	2	4	0	.333	97	102
Houston	3	3	0	.500	138	137
Tennessee	2	4	0	.333	121	138
North						
Pittsburgh	5	1	0	.833	136	114
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	97	79
Cleveland	3	2	0	.500	115	113
Cincinnati	1	4	0	.200	83	129
West						
Denver	5	1	0	.833	130	77
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	105	136
Oakland	2	4	0	.333	98	150
Kansas City	1	4	0	.200	105	132

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	5	0	1	1.000	137	63
N.Y. Giants	4	1	0	.800	104	72
Dallas	3	2	0	.600	87	115
Washington	2	4	0	.333	84	95
South						
Atlanta	5	1	0	.833	119	86
New Orleans	2	4	0	.333	123	115
Carolina	1	4	0	.200	77	118
Tampa Bay	1	5	0	.167	90	107
North						
Minnesota	4	1	0	.800	150	125
Detroit	3	2	0	.600	88	110
Green Bay	2	4	0	.333	117	152
Chicago	1	4	0	.200	78	89
West						
St. Louis	4	2	0	.667	144	134
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	112	116
Arizona	1	4	0	.200	87	87
San Francisco	1	5	0	.167	105	159

Sunday's games

Green Bay 38, Detroit 10	
Buffalo 26, Miami 13	
Houston 20, Tennessee 10	
Atlanta 21, San Diego 20	
Washington 13, Chicago 10	
N.Y. Jets 28, San Francisco 14	
New England 39, Seattle 20	
Jacksonville 22, Kansas City 16	
Philadelphia 30, Carolina 8	
Denver 31, Oakland 3	
Pittsburgh 24, Dallas 20	
Minnesota 38, New Orleans 31	
New England 39, Seattle 20	
Philadelphia 30, Carolina 8	

St. Louis 28, Tampa Bay 21	
Buffalo 26, Miami 13	

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Vikings will wait and see on Moss for Sunday

By DAVE CAMPBELL

The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Randy Moss could miss a game for the first time in his NFL career, but the Minnesota Vikings won't decide before Friday whether he'll be forced out by a strained right hamstring.

Coach Mike Tice described the injury as more than mild, but Moss might be able to play a limited role in Sunday's home game against the Tennessee Titans.

"He's a freak," Tice said, "and he heals really quick."

Moss, who has played in 101 consecutive regular-season games, leads the league with eight touchdown catches. The All-Pro receiver was hurt in the

second quarter of Sunday night's game in New Orleans when he tripped and fell after getting tangled with Saints safety Jay Belamy on a pass that was intercepted in the end zone.

Moss played on the Vikings' next possession, but he wasn't thrown to and headed to the locker room after that drive. He cheered Minnesota's 38-31 victory from the sideline, wearing a gray track suit.

Meanwhile, rookie Mewelde Moore will start again this week at running back.

A knee injury has prevented Michael Bennett from playing in the regular season, and Ontario Smith has two games remaining on his four-game substance-abuse suspension.

Moore, drafted in the fourth round out of Tulane, has 201 yards rushing and 168 yards receiving the past two games.

Bennett ran for 1,296 yards in 2002 — the only year he didn't miss a game. He's expected to participate fully in practice, but the Vikings won't hesitate to give him another week to heal.

"If Mike can't go forward, he's not going to suit up," coach Mike Tice said.

A seven-year veteran, Moss has had recurring ankle sprains throughout his career and was bothered by a sore foot at the end of last season. But he has played in every game — preseason, regular season and playoffs — for the Vikings since they drafted him with the 21st overall pick in 1998.

Though Tice isn't concerned about Moss missing practice this week, he doesn't want the injury to linger and cost Minnesota (4-1) later.

"I know he wants to play in some type of role, but at the same time I have to do what's best for the team in the long run," Tice said.

Moss was unavailable for comment on Monday.

"I'm hoping and praying he'll be back out there," quarterback Daunte Culpepper said. "If he's well enough to play, I'm pretty sure he's going to be playing."

Despite missing Moss for the second half at New Orleans, the Vikings didn't slow down. Culpepper finished with a career-high 425 yards and five touchdowns, and Minnesota scored 24 points after Moss got hurt.

Monday Rams 28, Buccaneers 21

Tampa Bay	7	7	7	0-28
St. Louis	7	7	7	21-28

St. Louis	7	7	7	0-28
Tampa Bay	7	7	7	21-28

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Tampa Bay	7	7	7	21-28

St. Louis	7	7	7	0-28
Tampa Bay	7	7	7	21-28

Rice gets wish; Raiders send him to Seattle

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Jerry Rice is leaving the Bay Area, where he quickly developed into the greatest receiver in NFL history with a relentless work ethic that still defines him today.

Disgruntled for weeks about a lack of playing time for the struggling Oakland Raiders, Rice got his wish Monday when they traded him to a contender: the Seattle Seahawks. The move reunites him with Seattle coach Mike Holmgren, Rice's former offensive coordinator in San Francisco.

The trade will be finalized after Rice undergoes a physical and the league gives its approval. An NFL source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the Raiders

expected to receive a conditional seventh-round draft pick for Rice but the final details were still being worked out.

The Seahawks, who had not made any announcement Monday night, will owe Rice the remainder of his \$1.35 million base salary this season.

The 42-year-old Rice, in his 20th NFL season, said goodbye to his teammates Monday, even signing autographs for some before leaving. A trophy and his belongings remained in his locker.

"Yeah, we knew," fullback Zack Crockett, one of Rice's longtime friends, said in a phone interview. "Right now, everything is so fresh. This is a real sad day. You lose a lot of close friends as well. We'll definitely miss him."

In one dramatic day, the last of Oakland's old guard was swept

away. Earlier, injured quarterback Rich Gannon announced he won't return to the field for the Raiders this season because of a broken vertebra in his neck.

Gannon acknowledged that with longtime receiver Tim Brown already gone and Rice virtually out the door — and his own football future uncertain — this could mark the end of a special era for the Silver and Black.

"You could look at it that way," Gannon said. "Obviously, when you hire a new coach there are some changes. I want to think of it as a beginning of an era."

Rice asked last week to be traded before Tuesday's deadline because he knew his role the rest of the season would continue to be minimal in coach Norv Turner's offense. Earlier Monday, Holmgren said the team was looking into a deal.

"I would think it would give any team a boost, but really it's up to the Raiders," Holmgren said. "It's really their call."

Holmgren was Rice's offensive coordinator from 1989-91 with the 49ers, and Holmgren was San Francisco's quarterbacks coach starting in Rice's second season with the team in 1986.

Seattle was a logical destination for Rice because he knows Holmgren's offense and the Seahawks could use some help at receiver.

Rice wanted to play for a team that will give him a greater role, and Holmgren has agreed to provide him with a fresh start.

Rice has gone without a catch in three of five games this season, including Sunday's 31-3 loss to Denver. When he didn't even get a pass thrown his way. His record

receptions streak ended at 274 in Week 2 against Buffalo.

Rice seemed incredibly conflicted after Sunday's game, alternately talking in the past, present and future tenses about his three-plus seasons with the Raiders. He spoke about what he could do to help turn around Oakland's 2-4 record, but also expressed appreciation for 20 years of support from Bay Area fans.

Rice realizes the Raiders are focused on developing their young receivers: Jerry Porter, Randall Curry, Doug Gabriel and Alvis Whitted.

But Rice still believes he can be productive. "They know each other, and Mike was interested in Jerry before he signed with the Raiders," Rice's agent, Jim Steiner, said Monday afternoon. "He will know the offense if that's where he ends up, and he'll fit right in."

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TW25B	4 oz. tube	TW25B-4SP4	9150-01-439-1873
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Gannon won't return this year

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Rich Gannon will not return to the field for the Oakland Raiders this season because of a broken vertebra in his neck.

The quarterback, who turns 39 in December, saw four of the country's top neck and spine specialists in the past couple of weeks and was told he shouldn't try to play again this year.

But Gannon didn't rule out a return next season and wasn't ready to say he's going to retire.

"After visiting with these professionals and these experts, it's been brought to my attention that it's the general consensus that a return to action this season is unrealistic," Gannon said Monday, speaking publicly for the first time since getting hurt in a helmet-to-helmet hit Sept. 26. "As far as my future, I'm just not real-

ly in a position to speculate beyond the 2004 season."

Gannon will still make \$4.5 million base salary this season because he is a vested veteran. He restructured his \$7 million contract last month by converting \$2.5 million into unlikely-to-be-earned incentives for salary-cap purposes.

Gannon was knocked out of the game in the first quarter of the Raiders' 30-20 win over Tampa Bay last month after being hit by linebacker Derrick Brooks. The Raiders originally said Gannon would be at least eight weeks. Kerry Collins is playing in his place.

"It's good to have it out of the way, and good for him," left guard Frank Middleton said of Gannon. "Now Collins knows this is his team, and we're going to ride and die with him."

This was supposed to be Gannon's comeback season.

The 2002 NFL MVP was hurt in

a 17-10 loss to Kansas City last Oct. 20, and had shoulder surgery in November, finishing the season on injured reserve. This off-season was his most productive in his 17-year career as he worked his way back.

The Raiders had not yet placed Gannon on injured reserve. "It's extremely disappointing," said Gannon, wearing a hard neck brace he'll need for about six weeks. "I don't think a lot of people realize just what went into it, and the night of the injury I think people saw the excruciating pain on my face. ... I put a lot of effort and energy into coming back."

Gannon said he knew the injury was significant right away, but never felt numbness in his extremities.

Gannon will discuss his future in football with his wife, Shelley, and the couple's two daughters.

"I have no regrets if that Sunday night game was my last," Gannon said.

Titans Brown, McNair should be OK

er said after Brown left Texans safety Jason Simmons with a concussion Sunday.

"He seems to feel like he got the best of it. I beg to differ with him," Fisher said. "I turned over, he was sitting in the same place on the bench the rest of the half. If he comes back from this, I like to expect him to, that's the important thing."

Brown played only the first half of the season-opening victory over Miami after spraining his left ankle, but he hasn't missed a start. He also has run for at least 100 yards in four of six starts.

Steve McNair, coming off a four-interception performance, hurt his chest again. Fisher said this injury is lower in his chest than the bruised sternum that put McNair in the hospital for two nights last month, but it shouldn't be a problem.

Other good news Monday included an MRI on safety Tank Williams' sore knee, which showed no damage.

With Brown and McNair looking good for next week, Fisher now can worry about the rest of his squad in a season where mere survival, not the playoffs, is the priority. Injuries have wracked the linebackers and receivers, with the latter end the latest position hit.

Top tight end Erron Kinney will miss his fourth straight game with a strained right calf when the Titans (2-4) visit Minnesota (4-1) next week, and Sha Meier will need at least two weeks to recuperate after his appendectomy Sunday.

That leaves only rookie Ben Troupe.

Obviously, we have to get creative with the plan. With extra days to do that and practice time, I think we'll be OK," Fisher said.

Ortiz sets off another wild celebration

Slugger's single in 14th reduces Red Sox deficit in ALCS to 3-2

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

BOSTON — David Ortiz had just lifted the 471st pitch of the night in center field for the winning hit, setting off another wild celebration, just as improbable as the one he started the night before.

"Boston had rallied to beat the New York Yankees again, needing 14 innings for a 5-4 victory that took 5 hours, 49 minutes, a postseason record.

Now, as the jubilant Red Sox and dejected Yankees came off the field at Fenway Park late Monday night, knowing they were scheduled to play again in New York in just 21 hours, they had to wonder: Who can even pitch Tuesday night after Boston starter Curt Schilling and the Yankees' Jon Lieber leave Game 6?

"Schilling's pitch count might be 180," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Think everyone was exhausted after Aaron Boone's 11th-inning homer won Game 7 for the Yankees last year? Both teams are dragging themselves to Yankee Stadium.

"Everybody's tired," New York catcher Jorge Posada said. "The team, our team."

Rain was forecast for Tuesday night. Both teams could surely use the rest a rainout would bring after three games in Boston that saw 1,298 pitches, 82 hits and 29 pitching changes over 55 innings.

"I think it will be good to go back home and gain some energy from the home crowd," Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez said. "Three days here, it feels like we've been here a month."

None of the other 25 teams that fell behind 3-0 in a postseason series has ever come back to win. In fact, Boston is only the third to force a sixth game.

"We're going out there with no pressure," Boston's Johnny Damon said. "We've done stuff we're not supposed to be doing right now."

Turns out last October's epic was only a prequel, with this



David Ortiz swings at a two-out pitch in the 14th inning Monday night (top left), then exults (bottom left) as the ball falls to give the Red Sox a 5-4 victory over the Yankees. Johnny Damon, who scored from second on the play, gets a hero's welcome at the plate as Boston trimmed New York's lead in the ALCS to 3-2.

year's series mirroring the season. New York burst out to win the first three games, and Boston is desperately trying to catch up.

Just 21½ hours after Ortiz's 12th-inning homer off Paul Quantrill at 1:22 a.m. gave Boston a 6-4 victory in Game 4, the Boston slugger fouled off six pitches before singling to drive in the winning run off Esteban Loaiza.

"The last two nights shows the depth, the character, the heart, the guts of our ballclub," winner Tim Wakefield said. "It took every ounce of whatever we had left to win tonight's game and to win last night's game."



This time, Boston was six outs from elimination before Ortiz's leadoff homer off Tom Gordon and Jason Varitek's sacrifice fly off Mariano Rivera tied it 4-4 in the eighth.

The next six innings were agonizingly tense, filled with a double play, three passed balls in one inning, two Red Sox runners thrown out trying to steal second and 10 runners left on base.

When it was over, New York had stranded 18 runners and the Red Sox 12. The two games consumed 26 innings lasting 10 hours, 51 minutes.

Just a night after throwing 50

pitches, Boston closer Keith Foulke threw 22 more. Rivera, who blew a save for the second straight night and the third time this postseason, pitched two innings for the second straight game.

The Yankees took a 4-2 lead in the sixth when Derek Jeter poked a three-run double to right on Pedro Martinez's 100th pitch but were shut out over the last eight innings by Mike Timlin, Foulke, Bronson Arroyo, Mike Myers, Alan Embree and Wakefield.

Gary Sheffield struck out leading off the 13th but reached on a passed ball, and two more passed

balls by Varitek on Wakefield's knuckler left runners on second and third.

But after the ball nearly got away from Wakefield again, popping out of the catcher's glove but staying near the plate, Wakefield escaped by striking out Ruben Sierra on a 70 mph knuckler.

Wakefield, who gave up Boone's homer last year, followed with a 1-2-3 14th.

"In the last inning, he was on fumes," Francona said.

Damon started the winning rally by drawing a one-out walk, and Manny Ramirez walked with two outs. Ortiz then fouled off six pitches, including one that just missed being a home run down the right-field line, before blooming a single.

"There's nothing you can do," Loaiza said. "It was a great pitch, a broken bat, and it floated over second base."

Half the Red Sox ran to greet Damon coming home. The others mobbed Ortiz halfway to second base.

"I was thinking I'd better get it done right here," Ortiz said. "They've got too many hitters that can change the game with one swing."

The Yankees, who got a solo homer from Bernie Williams in the second, could have broken the game open after Jeter's double, but Trot Nixon prevented more damage with a sliding catch of Hideki Matsui's sinking drive to right with the bases loaded.

New York, 1-for-13 with runners in scoring position, missed a chance to take the lead in the ninth when Tony Clark's two-out drive to right hopped over the low fence for a ground-rule double that left runners at second and third. Foulke then retired Miguel Cairo on a foul pop.

Boston tried to change its perennial bad luck, with switch-hitter Varitek hitting right-handed against right-hander Mike Mussina and Kevin Millar trimming his billy-god beard.

Mussina allowed Ortiz's RBI single in the first and a bases-loaded walk to Varitek, then pitched five shutout innings before six relievers followed. The Yankees sent Lieber home during the game to get ready for Tuesday.

"We're going to play like we did last year," said Tim Lincecum. "We're not going to let anything happen. You've got starters going out there. You've got guys throwing three and four innings one day and throwing two or three again the next day."



Tim Wakefield was the winning pitcher for Boston Monday night.

A year later, Wakefield gets one to savor

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Tim Wakefield already had left far behind the home run that Aaron Boone hit off him last October to give the New York Yankees the American League championship.

Now Wakefield has a more pleasant playoff memory.

Wakefield rescued the over-worked Boston Red Sox bullpen by holding the Yankees scoreless in the last three innings of a 5-4,

14-inning victory over New York on Monday night. That sent the best-of-seven series back to Yankee Stadium for Game 6 Tuesday night with New York leading 3-2.

"I just tried, basically, to keep us in the game as long as possible," Wakefield, Boston's seventh pitcher of the night, said.

"After (my) second inning, they asked me how I felt and I said, 'I'll give you what I've got.'"

That turned out to be just

enough as because David Ortiz singled in the winning run in the bottom of the 14th. Ortiz gave plenty of credit to Wakefield, a starter all season.

"Unbelievable, unbelievable, amazing," Ortiz said. "I'm so happy for him. He wore them down."

Wakefield had an outstanding postseason last year until Oct. 16, when Boone's homer gave the Yankees a 6-5 victory in the 11th inning of Game 7.

"He didn't deserve to lose that game," Boston catcher Jason Varitek said. "We lost that game as a team."

Still, the Red Sox were thrilled that Wakefield, who allowed one hit, one walk and struck out four, pitched so well Monday night.

"He's certainly a guy that's easy to root for," Boston outfielder Gabe Kapler said. "He's not selfish. He's so versatile and is willing to do whatever the team needs."

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Kent becomes Superman

Astros lead NLCS 3-2 after HR in ninth ends pitchers' duel

BY BEN WALKER

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Only when Brandon Backe and Woody Williams were done did the hitters have any chance.

That's when Jeff Kent stepped up and put the Houston Astros one win from the World Series.

Pitching suddenly took over these playoffs Monday night, when Backe and Williams hooked up in one of the greatest October duels — only four hits in all, the fewest ever in a postseason game. Kent ended it, launching a three-run homer in the ninth inning to lift the Astros over St. Louis 3-0 for a 3-2 edge in the NL championship series.

Each team had only one single until Houston came to bat in the bottom of the ninth.

"He was on tonight, just like I was," Backe said. "When you feel as good as I did out there and felt in the rhythm that I was in, you just feel like nobody can hit you."

Neither team's sluggers did anything until Carlos Beltran — who else? — led off the ninth with a single. After an intentional walk to Lance Berkman with one out, Kent hammered a ball off the limestone facade in left field.

Kent flipped his bat after he connected, tossed off his helmet as he headed home and said, "One more, one more."

He was right. Because after the Astros' third straight win, one more victory will put them in the World Series for the first time.

Game 6 will be back in St. Louis on Wednesday, with Matt Morris starting for St. Louis. Roger Clemens may pitch on three days' rest for the Astros — manager Phil Garner said he will announce his choice on Tuesday's off-day.



DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Jeff Kent sets off a wild celebration among Astros teammates and fans with his game-winning, three-run home run in the bottom of the ninth inning against the Cardinals in Game 5 of the NLCS on Monday. Houston now leads the series 3-2 with Game 6 Wednesday in St. Louis.

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Rice to Seahawks
on same day
Gannon says
he won't return
from neck injury
this season**

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**Red Sox's Ortiz
does it again,
keeps Boston
from elimination
with extra-inning
hit in Game 5,
sending ALCS
back to New York**

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Earnhardt loses appeal to regain deducted Nextel Cup points

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